

Greek-Cypriots come under fire

ANKARA (R) — Cyprus came under fire from Turkey and Turkish Cypriots Monday for a weekend incident in which officials said a cargo plane destined for the north of the island was ordered to land in the south by Greek-Cypriot air controllers. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said in a statement the incident put at risk settlement efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has called Greek and Turkish Cypriots to meet him in Vienna next month. He said: "We can take this to mean the Greeks (Greek Cypriots) are not in favour of negotiations... the work of the secretary-general of the U.N. will certainly run up against problems." The empty Ghana-registered Boeing-707 landed at Larnaca airport in the south of the island on Friday after being ordered to do so by air controllers, officials in northern Cyprus told Reuters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: جريدة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Tripoli militia ceasefire shattered

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Ceasefire observers fled for cover Monday when fighting escalated between rival militias in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli, security sources said. One member of the observer team made up of police was wounded when small-arms clashes erupted earlier Monday between the Sunni Muslim "Islamic Unification Movement" (Tawheed) and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party (ADP), the sources said. No other casualties were reported. Other observers withdrew from four posts set up to monitor ceasefire violations in the areas of most intense fighting after Monday's clashes escalated into artillery exchanges, the sources said. The earlier clashes had subsided while an all-party security committee was discussing a peace plan for the city. The committee sought to end the fighting by contacting ground units and the Syrian army.

Petrol station owners picket refinery, page 2

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Arafat begins Malaysian visit

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived for a three-day state visit to Malaysia Monday, government sources said. Mr. Arafat is expected to brief Malaysia's king, Sultan Mahmood Iskandar and Prime Minister Dr. Mahatir Mohamad on the latest developments in the Middle East, the sources said.

Soviet-Pakistani talks delayed

ISLAMABAD (R) — Talks due to open in Moscow Tuesday between a senior Pakistani official and his Soviet counterpart have been put off at the Kremlin's request, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday. He gave no reason why Moscow put off the visit of Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik, who was to leave Tuesday for two days of discussions on issues on the United Nations General Assembly agenda. He would not elaborate. The postponement was the second in a week for Mr. Naik, whose planned visit to New Delhi for talks on a no-war pact was put off at India's request last Monday.

Reagan confers with Duarte

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan conferred Monday with President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador in a meeting underscoring the administration's continued support for the Central American country and kicking off a White House drive to shore up aid to the troubled region. Mr. Duarte flew to Washington Monday from New York, where he arrived Sunday after the completion of a five-nation tour through Western Europe. It was the second Duarte-Reagan meeting this year, and their first since Mr. Duarte took over the presidency.

Cairo orders probe into banners in court

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Interior Ministry has ordered an inquiry into how some 300 jailed Muslim extremists managed to appear in court last Saturday carrying banners displaying Islamic slogans, a source close to the ministry said Monday. The alleged members of the outlawed Jihad (holy war) group face charges connected with a plot to overthrow the government by force and the deaths of 60 policemen in disturbances that followed the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Scores injured in New York mishap

NEW YORK (R) — Two Amtrak passenger trains collided head-on five minutes from midtown New York Monday, injuring scores of passengers in the third serious accident on the national rail line this month. Amtrak officials in Washington and police in New York said there were no fatalities in the 10.45 a.m. (11:45 GMT) crash, but many of the 168 passengers on the two trains suffered neck and back injuries.

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Close run indicated in Israeli polls Labour tipped to win 46 seats, Likud 43

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Labour Party outpolled Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc by 46 seats to 43 in the 120-member parliament, according to a Radio Israel Arabic report late Monday night.

Television stressed that more accurate results were expected only in a few hours with the first substantial vote counts.

The poll indicated that both parties could form a coalition, with Labour enjoying a slight advantage.

The poll covered about 30,000 voters at the stations spread around the country.

The result brought jubilation in Likud headquarters, where officials had feared a heavier defeat.

Mordechai Gur, Labour's campaign manager, looked subdued as he said he hoped the poll would prove wrong. "I think that it would not be serious to make any comparisons at this stage. We have come to it bigger and stronger and that's already a victory."

Earlier opinion polls gave Labour a six or seven seat lead over the ruling Likud Party in the Knesset but either party will have to get support from the small parties to muster a majority (See page 2).

This raised fears that the general election would produce another wobbly coalition unable to preserve a united front on crucial economic issues.

Mr. Shamir, whose right-wing government was toppled in March when a coalition partner rejected austerity measures, campaigned for a national unity government to fight Israel's 400 per cent annual inflation. Labour Party leader Shimon Peres rejected the idea.

The main campaign issues have been the economy, the Lebanon war and Likud's Jewish settlement drive in the occupied Arab territories. Labour has said it will slow down settlement and withdraw the army quickly from Lebanon.

Some 2.6 million Israelis, including 280,000 Arabs, were registered to vote. Early checks showed the turnout was about the same as in 1981, when 80 per cent of the electorate voted.

The parties had mobilised about 25,000 vehicles in a special effort to get pensioners, the disabled and people living in remote areas to the polls.

Fifteen parties among the 26 in the race stood a chance of winning one to six seats and possibly a place in the next government.

They include the Likud's natural ally, the Tehiya (renaissance) party that wants to annex the occupied West Bank and Ezer Weizman's Yahad (together) faction, which could also join Likud since Mr. Weizman is a former Likud executive who was defence minister under Shamir's predecessor, Menachem Begin.

The Yahad Party is expected to play a key role in negotiations. Analysts said the polls were so close that Yahad's projected three or four seats could tilt the balance of power.

Fears of price increases and a devaluation of the shekel by an interim government drove the U.S. dollar up 10 per cent on the black market Sunday. Thousands of Israelis swarmed to grocery stores for extra stocks of subsidised foods.

Also on Likud's side is

American-born extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, who could win a seat or two on his extremist platform of forcing all Arabs out of Israel and the occupied territories.

But unlike the right-wing Tehiya Party, Mr. Weizman's group is committed to a serious push for peace with the Arabs, and it could fit comfortably into a coalition with Labour which is offering to exchange part of the West Bank for peace with Jordan (See page 2).

Labour could also find partners in Shulamit Alon's citizens' rights movement, the Shinui faction, the mixed Arab-Jewish Progressive Party and Lova Eliav, running alone on a peace ticket. And it can count on tacit backing from the small Communist Party, even though Labour is unlikely to invite a staunchly pro-Moscow faction into a coalition.

There are five religious factions, four of which could fit into a coalition with either Labour or Likud. Other potential swing seats could go to former Finance Minister Yigal Hurvitz, campaigning for economic austerity, and Mordechai Ben-Porat who wants Labour and Likud to form a joint bipartisan government.

Soldiers in Lebanon began voting Sunday at mobile polling stations to assure their ballots would arrive before the end of the count on Thursday.

President Haim Herzog urged all voters to exercise their democratic rights.

Mr. Herzog has the duty of deciding which party leader will have the first chance of forming a coalition. He said he would announce his decision on Thursday. In the past it has taken weeks, even months, of bargaining to set up a government.

Israeli elections may result in major policy shift, page 2



JORDAN, EGYPT REVIEW CO-OPERATION: His Majesty King Hussein Crown Prince Hassan Sunday holds talks with Egyptian Minister of Agriculture Youssef Wali on the scope of Jordanian-Egyptian co-operation in the agricultural sector in a meeting attended by Jordanian Minister of Agriculture Muhammad Bashir (right) and the head of the Egyptian interests section in Amman, Ihab Wahbeh (left). Mr. Wali arrived in Amman Sunday on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days (Petra photo)

New army unit to take over PSP-held mountains this week

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami Monday held out hope that his government could extend its authority into the militia-held Shouf and Aley mountains this week in a second stage of its so far successful security plan.

After a meeting with President Amin Gemayel in the presidential palace outside the capital, Mr. Karami told reporters: "We hope it will happen as soon as possible, and I hope this will be in the course of this week."

If all goes well, a mainly Druze army brigade will replace the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia in the mountainous southeast of Beirut, dismantling the front lines around the strategic town of Souq Al Gharb.

One of the main obstacles to the operation has been rightist demands that all 250,000 or so Christian refugees from the PSP-held area be allowed back to their homes.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt, a minister in Mr. Karami's government, said Sunday the party had agreed in principle to let the refugees back (See page 2).

Mr. Karami Monday said the government was preparing also

for the next phase of political reforms called for in the new security plan to curb the nine-year-old civil war in Lebanon.

Mr. Karami said he had conferred with army commander Gen. Michel Aoun and Chief of Staff Brig. Nadim Hakim, who both attended the meeting, on ways to "continue the security plan in Beirut and carry out the security plan in the mountains... what remains is that we must prepare for the next stage, especially on the political level."

Meanwhile, mostly Christian rightist militiamen in the village of Kharshima and PSP militiamen in Shweifat kept up their machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade exchanges on Monday.

The hostilities followed mortar and rocket battles in the two villages on the foothills of Lebanon's central mountains southeast of Beirut overnight. Seven combatants were wounded, according to police.

There were no immediate casualty reports for Monday's hostilities.

Fighting has been increasing in the area since the army command last week began preparations to disengage the warring militias in the central mountains and re-open

the Beirut-Damascus international highway.

The warring militias continued gathering their weapons in depots under French and Lebanese observer supervision, the state radio said.

One depot is in east Beirut for medium-range rightist militia weapons, and three in west Beirut for the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia and PSP weapons. The collection of weapons started on Saturday as part of the Beirut security plan.

Officials said the Lebanese army command would lift its military protection of Israel's "liaison office" in east Beirut's mostly Christian suburb of Dbye as of Tuesday evening (See page 2).

Mr. Karami also confirmed to reporters Monday that he had definite plans to visit Syria and Saudi Arabia, the two Arab countries most active in bringing about settlement in Lebanon.

Press reports Monday said the prime minister would leave for Riyadh on Saturday to discuss the Saudi role in stabilising security here, but Mr. Karami said no dates had yet been set.

Lebanese start removing barriers at U.S. embassy, page 2

Hussein sends good wishes to Mubarak

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the occasion of the anniversary of the July 23 Egyptian Revolution. The cable congratulated the Egyptian leader in the King's name and on behalf of the government and people of Jordan and wished the people of Egypt progress and prosperity.

The cable said: "May God help all of us to do good for the Arab people and for our just causes and to help us confront the dangerous challenges which are threatening our fate, soil and land."

The King also wished President Mubarak continued good health.

To mark the occasion of the anniversary of the Egyptian Revolution, Ihab Wahbeh, head of the Egyptian interests section in Amman, and his wife hosted a reception at their residence Monday evening. The reception was attended by a number of officials and heads of diplomatic missions in Amman, in addition to a number of guests.

Egypt optimistic over ties with Arab countries

CAIRO (Agencies) — New Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid was quoted as saying Monday that he believes Egypt's relations with other Arab states will improve "to meet the common challenge of solving the Palestinian question."

Most Arab states severed diplomatic relations with Egypt after the late President Anwar Sadat signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Formal relations are still severed but there has been a gradual warm-up under successor Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, named foreign minister in a new cabinet on July 17, was quoted in an interview with Al-Ahram newspaper as saying: "I believe we are going to cover big steps in rapprochement with our Arab brothers... the approach will come from both sides not from one side only."

He said a probable reason for disorder in the Arab World was the wedge between Egypt and the other Arab countries.

"I think that we will take big steps in getting close to our Arab brothers, steps from both sides and not just one side, because the main challenge that we all face is to solve the Palestinian problem," Mr. Abdul Meguid was quoted as saying.

Seventeen Arab states severed diplomatic ties with Egypt following its 1979 treaty with Israel. Since President Mubarak took over in October 1981, contacts between Egypt and most Arab states have improved, although none of the 17 has restored full relations.

The severing of the Arab countries' relations with Egypt was taken as a collective act through the Arab League and many Arab countries feel that a restoration of these relations should also be through a collective action.

Baghdad receives OIC message

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received a message Monday on the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war from Gambian President Dawda Jawara, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The message was delivered by Omar Jawa, Gambia's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who arrived in Baghdad Sunday as a special envoy of President Jawara. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Mr. Jawa heads the OIC's nine-man Islamic goodwill mission that was empowered last week to renew efforts on behalf of the OIC to end the 46-month-old Gulf conflict.

Iraq has welcomed the OIC's new mediation attempt, but Iran rejected the effort saying the goodwill commission was pro-Iraq.

Mr. Jawa held talks in Baghdad with Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on

the steps that the goodwill commission intends to take.

Battlefront action

Meanwhile, Baghdad Radio said Iraqi helicopter gunships attacked Iranian troops concentrations in the Misan sector of the southern front, "scoring direct hits and returning safely to their bases."

The radio, quoting a communiqué issued by the Iraqi high command, said the Iraqi forces killed or wounded a number of Iranian troops on attacks and clashes along the various sectors of the battlefield.

IRNA, the Iranian news agency, said the Iranian forces killed or wounded 10 Iraqi soldiers Sunday in the northern front, and six others along the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Spanish caution

Meanwhile in Madrid, a For-

Moscow denies it is ready to return to arms talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union Monday denied reports that it would be ready to return to nuclear arms talks with the United States if the West declared a freeze on deployments of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe.

The denial, carried by the official news agency TASS, appeared to be in direct response to remarks attributed to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu that a freeze would be enough to bring Moscow back to the negotiating table.

TASS re-stated the Soviet position that it would resume the talks only if the U.S. first withdrew the missiles it has already placed in

Western Europe since the end of last year.

It said reports that Moscow would accept a freeze and the continued presence of those U.S. medium-range missiles already deployed "are described here (in Moscow) as baseless."

Mr. Ceausescu's remarks were made in an interview with U.S. correspondent John Wallace of the Hearst newspaper group.

TASS did not mention Mr. Ceausescu by name and cited only reports carried by ABC television in the U.S. The ABC bureau in Moscow said the network had not carried any reports on the subject.

U.S. agreement demanded

In another development, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday the Soviet Union would interpret a U.S. refusal to agree to a moratorium on testing space weapons as unwillingness to hold space weapons talks.

The official, Vladimir Lomeiko, also said the Soviet Union had last week asked the United States to agree to a joint statement on space weapons talks because of Washington's "evasive" response to its proposal and "tragic" experiences in other talks.

Mr. Lomeiko, who spoke at a news conference, refused to say whether the Soviet Union would

agree to opening talks this fall if the United States does not agree to its agenda.

Mr. Lomeiko refused to call the Soviet demand for a moratorium to be in place at the start of negotiations a "precondition."

"We do not consider our suggestion to establish a moratorium as a precondition," he said. "We regard it as part... of the problem. It is only natural to expect that an end be put to testing and deployment of space weapons."

"A U.S. refusal to accept a moratorium will speak for itself," he said. "It will be a manifestation of a lack of willingness to conduct negotiations."

Junblatt agrees to return of refugees to mountains

BEIRUT (R) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt, who controls the mountains southeast of Beirut, has declared his agreement in principle to the return of Christian refugees to the mountains, newspapers reported Monday.

Mr. Junblatt, head of the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), made the statement Sunday after meeting Christian leaders at his home in the mountain village of Moukhtara.

An estimated 250,000 Christians have fled the mountains, most of them during the "mountain war" between the Lebanese Forces militia and the PSP last September.

Many Christians have insisted that any government plan to disengage forces and restore normal life to the mountains must include the return of the refugees.

"The PSP and the nationalist forces in the mountains have decided in principle to restore all the

refugees to their properties without restrictions or conditions and to restore the formula of co-existence which the Lebanese Forces tried to destroy," Junblatt said, according to newspaper reports.

The Lebanese Forces, alleging PSP mistreatment of the Christian population, forced their way into the mountains in 1982 under Israeli protection. The PSP denied they mistreated Christians.

Mr. Junblatt said the PSP still insisted on the return of refugees to all other parts of Lebanon, but was willing to start with the mountains in order to fight Lebanese Forces plans to divide Lebanon into federal or decentralised units.

"We believe that in order to save Lebanon from any partitionist or federal or any other plan which contradicts the unity of Lebanon, the return of the refugees to the mountain should be a test of good faith," he said.

Under PSP supervision, some 15 Christian families recently returned to Meshref, 20 kilometres south of Beirut, and Sunday's discussions covered the return to the town of Bhamdoun, 18 kilometres east of the capital, an informed PSP source said.

The PSP has set up its own government administration in the mountains it controls, which now is almost wholly inhabited by Druze.

The Lebanese Forces, which have run many government services in east Beirut and other Christian areas north east of the capital, had expressed the hope that Mr. Junblatt would go along with their plans for formalising the



Walid Junblatt

decentralisation. Mr. Junblatt said certain "technical problems" were holding up the application of a government security plan to the mountain.

Under the plan, a mainly Druze army brigade is to separate fighters of the PSP and soldiers of a largely Falangist brigade in the mountains, and take control of key roads including the Beirut-Damascus Highway.

The government has already implemented a security plan in greater Beirut, and militias on Saturday and Sunday deposited some heavy arms in guarded and locked depots.

Time complains over office bugging

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Time magazine, which is engaged in a lawsuit against former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, complained to the authorities Sunday after finding its offices had been bugged, the magazine's lawyer said.

Private detective agencies found that "broadcasting on several frequencies from out of the Time offices exists," lawyer Arnon Gitzelter told Reuters.

The magazine is being sued by Gen. Sharon for libel in connection with a 1983 report on the Beirut massacre of Palestinian refugees by Lebanese Falangists.

Mr. Gitzelter said Time complained to Israeli police and the attorney general over the bugging. He said private conversations conducted in the offices started appearing in the Israeli press in mid-June, shortly after the arrival of an American lawyer who was representing the magazine.

U.S. citizen jailed for W. Bank attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — Matthew Leibowitz, an American citizen and follower of extremist U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane, was jailed for three years Sunday for shooting at a bus carrying Palestinian workers.

The Israeli court also gave Leibowitz a three-year suspended sentence.

Leibowitz, 23, who was here on a tourist visa, had been accused with two other Kahane followers of shooting at the bus near the

occupied West Bank town of Ramallah last March. Six Palestinians were wounded in the attack.

Levy Hazan, 23, was sentenced earlier to 21 months for his part in the shooting. A third defendant, Yehuda Richter, 21, is still on trial.

Hazan and Richter, both from Los Angeles, hold dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, and were serving in the Israeli army at the time

of the shooting. Leibowitz is from New York City.

Richter is a candidate for the Israeli parliament, running as number two on Rabbi Kahane's Kach party slate. Rabbi Kahane, who heads the extremist list, could win a parliament seat in Monday's national election, according to some independent polls. Kach demands the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories.

Israeli Labour ready to talk with Jordan, Palestinians on M.E. peace

WASHINGTON (R) — A leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party said Sunday that if his party wins Monday's elections it is ready for immediate talks with Jordan and Palestinians on achieving peace in the Middle East.

Speaking in a television interview, Mordechai Gur, campaign manager of the party, said: "We are going to call them for immediate negotiations, without any precondition, and we expect that we can achieve concessions, understandings, co-existence in quite a short while."

He also said the party believed an understanding could be reached with Syria to ensure an Israeli military withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, of the ruling right-wing Likud Bloc, who was also interviewed on the programme, said Jordan had so far shown no readiness to compromise on matters of importance to Israel's security.

"Therefore in our opinion it is just poor tactics to be talking about our readiness and our eagerness for compromise when the fellow on the other side isn't ready to give way on one square inch," he said.

Gur specified that the Palestinians taking part in the talks would not be in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which Israel has rejected as a negotiating partner.

Gur said the party was also ready to reach an understanding with Syria on withdrawing Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in a way that ensured Israel's security on its northern border.

"We are not talking about an immediate withdrawal," he said.

Gur added: "I really believe that based on previous experiences with the Syrians and the Lebanese, it can be achieved in a matter of a few months."

Petrol station owners picket Tripoli refinery

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Petrol station owners Monday picketed a refinery in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli in protest of recent petrol shortages.

About 150 owners stopped leading employees from loading tankers with oil products and barred vehicles from entering or leaving the facility.

After a meeting Sunday with

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the refinery's General Manager, Walid Mawlawi, said shortages were due to the delayed arrival of a ship carrying oil products from Lebanon's other refinery at Zahran in the Israeli-occupied South.

The Israelis held up the ship's departure for 24 hours but it was now on its way to Tripoli, Mr. Mawlawi added.

Lebanese start removing U.S. embassy barriers

BEIRUT (R) — Work began Monday on removing fortifications from the perimeter of a compound used by the British and U.S. embassies in Beirut, which are both in the process of moving to new premises.

The Oger-Liban Construction Company started hauling massive concrete blocks from the western end of the seaport compound in mainly Muslim west Beirut, watched by an armed American security unit, U.S. Marine guards and a few curious bystanders.

Concrete blocks, barbed wire barricades and sandbagged guard posts were installed after the U.S. embassy was destroyed by a truck bomb on April 18, 1983.

Since then, American diplomats have operated from part of the British embassy and nearby apartment buildings.

Both the U.S. and the British embassies are moving to other buildings in west Beirut. The British embassy has already opened an annex in east Beirut.

British embassy sources have said the present embassy building would be too large for its reduced staff and too difficult to guard once the Americans leave.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said Monday consular offices in their present west Beirut location would stay open at least until the end of this week.

When full embassy operations begin at the new premises, the 80 U.S. Marines now guarding the seaport compound will be replaced by locally-hired guards who include former militiamen.

U.S. embassy sources have confirmed that the embassy has hired and trained former fighters with the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia and the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) to protect the new embassy in west Beirut.

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Beirut cancels permits for Israeli staff

DBAIYEH, Lebanon (R) — Lebanon has withdrawn travel documents it issued to the staff of an Israeli liaison bureau north of Beirut, where Lebanese troops are still standing guard, official sources said Monday.

The government had given the Israelis short-term passes to enable them to move freely in and around Beirut, but these have been cancelled and will not be renewed, the sources said.

The office, which Israeli staffers call an "embassy", is in the village of Dbaiyeh 10 kilometres north of Beirut in territory controlled by the Falangist Lebanese Forces militia.

The sources said most of the officers on the Lebanese side of the liaison team have left the bureau

on orders issued last week by Defence Minister Adel Ossseiran.

Lebanese soldiers still guarding the bureau told Reuters Monday they did not know when they would be pulling out.

A Lebanese Forces official has said the militia was considering replacing soldiers at Dbaiyeh when the army leaves.

The Lebanese Forces has its own liaison office in Occupied Jerusalem.

An Israeli official at the army checkpoint at Dbaiyeh declined to say if the office would stay open in defiance of the government or if it would continue to issue permits for Lebanese wishing to go to Israeli-occupied South Lebanon.

The Israeli cabinet Sunday authorised Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens to decide the future of the bureau.

The office, described by Mr. Ossseiran as a "spying centre", has not given any permits for the south since Thursday in apparent reprisal for the government's decision.

Israel closed the only road to South Lebanon on Friday and has not said when it will re-open.

In early June, Mr. Karami asked Israel to shut its liaison bureau but his request was ignored. Israel wants to use the office as a forum for direct talks with Lebanon on security arrangements for the south.

Mr. Karami has said Lebanon is ready to provide security guarantees but rules out direct negotiations.

Kurdish rebels free 5 European hostages

VIENNA (R) — An Austrian, a West German and three Frenchmen held hostage by Kurdish guerrillas in Iraq have been freed and are on their way home, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman said the Austrian, 26-year-old Peter Stakne who was captured by members of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan on June 15, was expected to arrive back in Vienna on Monday.

He named the West German as Klaus Egerer and the Frenchmen as Robert Laurent, Jean-Christoph Lefas and Yves Molbut

king on development projects to gain publicity for their cause.

In Bonn, a West German Foreign Ministry spokesman said Austria had mediated the release of the five men in close consultation with the Bonn and Paris governments.

He said Mr. Egerer had also been captured on June 15 and would probably arrive home on Monday.

Further details were initially withheld at the request of Mr. Egerer's family, the spokesman said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programme
18:30 Programme Review
19:00 Sports Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:00 Local Programme
21:30 Arabic Series
22:00 News in Arabic
22:30 Religious Talk
23:10

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Take a letter Mr. Jones (Comedy)
21:10 Diana (Drama)
22:00 News in English
22:15 Wagner

RADIO JORDAN
853 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 9560 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Instruments
15:00 Science Fiction
15:30 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show
22:00 News Headlines
22:30 Evening Show
23:00 News Headlines

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
"Les Peintures Cinescopes" at the French Cultural Centre.

NEWS
ABC news at the American Centre at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Syrian Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabel Luwdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia, a dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz.
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world news; U.S. opinion roundup; documentary viewpoints, features 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 21:00 Focus 20:30 Now Music USA 21:00 Newsline 21:30 Magazine Show 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alle Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 57250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman 193, 775111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 44554
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Traffic police 36300-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 771125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre, 813813-32
Khalid Matar, J. Amn., 44261-4
Atalla Maternity, J. Amn., 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Maltes, J. Amman 36140
Lamasan 66913-4
Palestine, Shamsi, 664171-4
Shamsi Hospital 66913-4
University Hospital 845845
Dr. Al-Sit, J. Amman 667158
Al-Munir Hospital 66727-9
The Islamic, Adail 665292
Al-Ahli, Adail 664164
Italian, Al-Mohajreen 777101-3
Al-Bahar, J. Amman 775111
Army, Marjeh 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Joseph Maseh 770560

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apples 350/300
Apricots 480/400
Bananas 280/240
Bananas (Makassar) 240/210
Beans 270/230
Cabbage 70/50
Carrots 140/100
Cauliflower (white) 210/180
Cherries (all kinds) 850/720
Chicken (all kinds) 80/60
Chicken (large) 120/100
Cucumber (small) 130/140
Eggplant (large) 70/50
Eggplant (small) 60/50
Figs 230/180
Garlic 250/200
Grapes 300/250
Lemon 60/40
Mango (large) 120/100
Mango (small) 150/140
Onion (dry) 120/100
Onion (green) 180/150
Okra 380/340
Oranges (local) 330/300
Oranges 330/300
Peanut 100/100
Peas 580/450
Pepper (sweet) 210/180
Pepper (hot green) 160/120
Pumpkin 220/180
Tomatoes 170/120
Sweet Melon 140/120
Water Melon 80/50

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Less than 50 per cent pass Tawjihi exams

AMMAN (Petra) — The overall pass rate in the General Secondary Certificate Examination for the year 1984 was 49.6 per cent, the director of examinations at the Ministry of Education announced Monday. Dr. Bashairah was speaking at a press conference held at the Ministry of Education, in which he announced results of the examinations.

Out of the 48,000 students who sat the examinations this year, 14,700 were external students not enrolled in the Ministry of Education's schools, Dr. Bashairah said.

The pass rate for students in the literary stream was 39.9 per cent. The rate for regular students in the literary stream was 57.2 per cent while the rate was 17.2 per cent for external students, he said.

In the scientific stream the pass rate was 66.1 per cent with a pass rate of 71.2 per cent for regular students whilst external students had a pass rate of 16.2 per cent said Dr. Bashairah.

The overall pass rate in the commercial stream was 50.3 per cent while in the agricultural stream the overall pass rate was 64 per cent. The industrial stream pass rate was 57.8 per cent and in the nursing stream it was 67.2 per cent, while the postal stream and the hotel and catering streams had overall pass rates of 49 per cent and 71.2 per cent respectively. Dr. Bashairah attributed the low overall pass rate in the General Secondary Examination Certificate to the low pass rates amongst external students.

Following are the names of the first ten students who passed with the highest marks:

First Nabil Mohammad A/ Rahim Ghuzlan 972
Second Bashar Nimer A/Rahman Al Bitar 969
Third Karamella Fuad Tawfiq Al Nimer 967
Fourth Amer Bahjat Mustaf Al Muheisen 966

Fifth Imad Mohammad Amin Al Khatib 957
Sixth Usama Mustafa Hussein Abu Ata 956
Seventh Nu'man Mohammad Hamdan Al Gharaybeh 955

Eighth Mohammad Awwad Awad Al Khawakdeh 954
Ninth Ra'id Abdul Karim Shihadeh Habash 952
Tenth Ra'id Ahmad Mahmoud Aqel 952



Head of examinations at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ahmad Bashairah (left at head of table), announces the results of the Tawjihi examinations at a press conference Monday (Petra photo)

Ministry plans more health centres, Ajlouni says

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni Monday announced the health situation in Jordan and the role of the Health Ministry in providing health services.

The minister, who was speaking at an open meeting at the Hay Hamilan community development centre, said that his ministry is currently planning to establish comprehensive health centres in various parts of Jordan with the aim of improving the health services in these areas.

Dr. Ajlouni paid tribute to the role of citizens in contributing to the development of the health sector and urged citizens to encourage their daughters to join the nursing and midwifery professions

because such vocational careers are necessary for developing local community health.

The minister pointed out that 70 per cent of the health services are concentrated in Amman and spoke about the health problems facing the ministry. He said that the lack of some services, the inability to diagnose diseases because of a shortage of medical equipment, the duplication of services and the absence of maternity hospitals are some of the main problems.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Health Under-Secretary Sulaiman Al Subeithi and a number of other ministry officials.

Palestinian folklore to go on display July 29

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Palestinian Folklore Committee, Mohammad Milhem will hold a press conference Tuesday, at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Amman, to announce celebration of the 10th anniversary of the PLO's establishment.

"PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will patronise the committee's celebrations for this year which will

be organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Antiquities, according to a spokesman for the committee.

The celebration, which will start on July 29 at the Roman amphitheatre in downtown Amman, Al Hussa camp and Yarmouk University, will include folklore performance as well as seminars on the Palestinian folklore.

Sudanese airways team holds co-operation talks with Alia

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Sudanese Airways company arrived here Sunday on a visit aimed at bolstering co-operation between the airlines of the two countries.

The delegation will request Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, to conduct administrative and technical studies for re-organising the Sudanese Airways company,

according to latest methods.

Also to be discussed is possibility of reaching an agreement between the two airlines to open a route between Amman and Khartoum to further strengthen relations between the two countries. Alia has expressed its readiness to put its administrative and technical expertise at the disposal of Sudanese airways.

Red Crescent Society tours Civil Defence Department

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Monday visited the Civil Defence Department, where they were briefed by the officer in charge of the department about its establishment, development and the service it renders.

The delegation also looked at the different equipment used by

the department in providing its services.

Accompanying the delegation were Director-General of the Civil Defence Department Major General Khalid Al Tarawneh, president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qurah, director of the University of Jordan Hospital, Dr. Rizq Rashdan and a number of civil defence officers.

Arab aviation progress highlighted at symposium

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Chairman of the Board Ali Ghandour said that Arab aviation has reached a distinguished position in the world of aviation and that there are now 20 Arab airline companies.

Mr. Ghandour delivered a lecture Monday to participants in the international symposium on aerospace education currently being held at the University of Jordan. In his lecture, Mr. Ghandour said that these 20 airline companies comprise 350 aeroplanes which carried 34 million passengers and airfreighted half a million tonnes of cargo during last year.

"We hope that restrictions and obstacles affecting Arab aviation will be lifted and that air transport between Arab countries become domestic transport in implementation of the Morocco declaration which aims at intensifying aviation movements between

parts of the Arab World and at competitive prices," said Mr. Ghandour.

The five-day symposium, which opened here Saturday, aims to increase the knowledge and awareness of youth in the fields of aviation and aerospace.

A total of 59 scientists concerned with space from Jordan and Arab states are attending the symposium which has been organised by the World Aerospace Education Organisation (WAE) and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA).

The WAE was established in 1978 in the United States and now has 350 members who represent world organisations and states.

WAE Chairman Kamal Najib announced Monday the establishment of a new Arab organisation specialising in aerospace education to be based in Cairo, Egypt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JPRC announce sales increase

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has achieved an increase of 2 per cent in its sales during the first half of this year compared with its sales during the same period of last year. JPRC Director-General Sa'ad Al Tal said that the company's sales during the first six months of this year reached 1,225,114 tonnes. Fuel oil registered the highest increase in sales with a rise of 86,000 tonnes.

Madaba ice-cream stores closed

MADABA (Petra) — Madaba District Governor Abdul Halim Awwad has issued a decision to close manually-operated ice-cream stores in the district for violating health conditions and public safety regulations. He stressed that strict legal action would be taken against owners of stores who do not abide by public health regulations.

Ramtha prepared for pilgrims

RAMTHA (Petra) — It has been decided to officially open the pilgrims city in Ramtha on Aug. 10, Ramtha Mayor Mohammad Al Bashabsheh said Monday. Ramtha Municipality has provided the city with all services in preparation for receiving Muslims who will cross Jordan en route to Mecca where they will perform pilgrimage, he said.

Jordan to attend UNDP conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a conference on economic plans for dry areas scheduled to be held in London from July 23 to July 27 under the supervision of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Assistant-Director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Saleh Al Shara will represent Jordan in the conference and will submit a working paper on plans grown in dry regions. Taking part in this conference are a number of Middle Eastern and South East Asian countries.

Bakeries in Mafraq shut for health violations

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Three bakeries have been closed down and another six have been fined in Mafraq because their employees were not in possession of valid health certificates and because of the violated health standards.

During an intensive campaign launched by Mafraq district health department, officials issued 300 warnings to restaurants, bakeries, supermarkets, stores and houses which were found to have sub-standard health conditions.

Assistant director of the Irbid Health Department, Dr. Suleiman Affash, requested that citizens and store owners check the validity dates of canned foods and said that strict legal action would be taken against violators.

SCC starts exporting to Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — The South Cement Company (SCC) produced 59,000 tonnes of cement during the first six months of 1984 according to SCC Director General Hatem Al Halawani.

Mr. Halawani said 33,000 tonnes have been exported to Saudi Arabia as a result of a three-year marketing agreement concluded with a Saudi company whereby half a million tonnes of cement will be exported to Saudi Arabia every year.

The SCC has sold 26,000 tonnes of cement in the local market through the Jordan Cement Factories Company, Mr. Halawani said.

Mr. Halawani added that he expects the quantities of cement for both the export and local markets to increase. The company has started production early last April.

Ports authority introduces modern equipment to cope with increases in sea traffic, cargo handling

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — Jordan's only port, Aqaba, has developed from its humble beginnings as a military wharf, into a comparatively large and modern cargo port equipped with sophisticated machinery and facilities. This transformation occurred through the implementation of numerous projects over the 32 years since the issue of a Royal Decree in 1952 for the establishment of the port.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Mansour Shamot, head of the Maritime and Shipping Department at the Ministry of Transport, outlined the developments of the port and described the available facilities. Mr. Shamot said that the main port area consists of nine berths capable of accommodating ships of various sizes which were built in stages to correspond with the increasing traffic to the port over the years.

Six of these berths, with a total length of 1,080 metres and a draft of 11 metres, are general cargo berths which were completed in 1980, Mr. Shamot said. In addition, there are two coastal berths with a total length of 300 metres used for the discharge of barges due to the shallow draft of six metres as well as a roll-on-roll-off (ro-ro) berth.

A 200,000 square metre area with transit sheds, side-open hangers and uncovered storage areas was completed in 1981 at a cost of JD 2 million to service the main port area, added Mr. Shamot.

The increases in cargo traffic have been enormous, rising from 60,000 tons in 1953 to over 11 million tons in 1983, necessitating the large-scale development of the



A ship is bulk-loaded with potash or phosphates from phosphate berth

Citizens discuss housing, major issues with prime minister

'Obeidat, ministers review Aqaba development projects, problems

AQABA (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Monday stressed the government's interest and readiness to pursue all fruitful and constructive efforts in order to serve the country and citizens honestly and faithfully. Mr. 'Obeidat, who was speaking here at a meeting of government department officials, public and private sector representatives and other prominent figures from the Aqaba district, said that the government hopes to enact King Hussein's wishes to provide a decent life to citizens in the various governorates and districts of Jordan.

"My visit to Aqaba district is aimed at familiarising myself with the people of the region, their conditions and their problems in order to find proper solutions," said Mr. 'Obeidat. "Listening to the requests of citizens and working towards meeting their needs is one of the government's major duties," added Mr. 'Obeidat.

The prime minister also said that one of the aims of his visit to Aqaba is to examine the progress of work in all the departments and institutions in the district to ensure that these departments perform their duties and tasks efficiently and smoothly.

Mr. 'Obeidat called on all government and national institutions to unite their efforts and to co-operate with the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) to enable it to carry out its duties successfully.

Responding to a request to support the Aqaba Municipality, Mr. 'Obeidat said that as Aqaba is part of the area now managed by the ARA, this department has the responsibility to develop and improve the standard of services in the various parts of the district.

Planned housing

Answering citizen's questions about housing, the prime minister said that the ARA will supervise the residential areas and services in the district. Regarding projected housing schemes, Mr. 'Obeidat outlined the importance of prior planning in executing such projects.

Discussing television transmissions in the southern region, Mr. 'Obeidat said that the cabinet has recently decided to allocate the necessary amount of money required to strengthen television transmission in the south, particularly in Aqaba and the nearby villages.

Transport committee

In reply to a question about land transport from and to Aqaba, Mr. 'Obeidat said that a ministerial committee has been formed to study issues related to this subject. The formation of the committee, Mr. 'Obeidat added, arose from the government's interest in developing the transport sector in view of its importance to the local economy.

Mr. 'Obeidat also said that the government will take action in the next week to remedy the main problems related to transport from and to Aqaba.

In response to a demand by Aqaba citizens requesting a civil court of first instance in Aqaba, Mr. 'Obeidat promised to open such a court in the region.

Concerning a project for housing workers in Aqaba, the prime minister instructed officials to

implement the construction of a housing complex for workers in the city.

Mr. 'Obeidat also agreed to earmark a section of the housing units currently under construction by the Housing Corporation for workers or for private company owners who wish to benefit from them.

Mr. 'Obeidat also contributed JD 25,000 towards construction of the Hussein Ibn Ali mosque in Aqaba.

Answering a question about reducing the electric power tariff in view of the large consumption of electricity by Aqaba residents in summer, the prime minister said he would give this subject due consideration and that he would study it in the near future.

Regarding the establishment of a dialysis unit in the south, Mr. 'Obeidat said he would ask Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni to supply the Prime Ministry with all the information pertaining to establishing such a unit for treating kidney patients.

Concluding his discussions, Mr. 'Obeidat expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all officials and citizens in the Aqaba district and promised to consider the citizens requests with the aim of providing and improving the essential services in the region.

Taking part in discussions were Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Arar,

Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi, Minister Transport Taher Hikmat and Aqaba Governor Khalil Khreisat.

Attending the meeting were members of the Lower House of Parliament, ARA President Mohammad Sa'id Abu Nowar, under secretaries of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, directors of the potash and fertiliser companies and a number of officials from government departments in addition to a number of notables, dignitaries and representatives of clubs and charitable societies in the district.

Following the meeting Mr. 'Obeidat, accompanied by a number of ministers, Aqaba district governor and ARA President Mohammad Sa'id Abu Nowar, toured the Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company where they listened to a briefing by the company's director, Dr. Mahmud Murti, about the progress of work, production programmes, exportation and the company's future plans.

Mr. 'Obeidat and the accompanying delegation then visited the Jordanian Wood Industries Company and were briefed on the progress of work at the company which employs 750 people.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat discusses the developments and problems in the city with officials and representatives from government departments and various sectors in Aqaba (Petra photo)

Container port

In a interview with the Jordan Times he said that a permanent container berth of 540 metres in length is in the final stages of construction and will replace the Mo'ta floating berth. Construction work on the new container port, located seven kilometres south of the main port, commenced in January 1984 and is expected to be completed in August of this year, he said.

Mr. Tayyan explained that over the past 10 years a world-wide trend in the usage of containers for shipping has emerged due to the safer shipment of individual consignments in boxes rather than loose or in bags. The number of container boxes handled by the Port of Aqaba has risen from 3,000 in 1976 to 60,000 boxes in 1983, Mr. Tayyan said, which necessitated the construction of the container port at a cost of JD 17 million.

The container port has a back-up area of 60,000 square metres equipped with ro-ro facilities whilst two gantry cranes, each with a capacity of 40 tons, are presently being erected at a cost of JD 2 million, he added. There is an additional storage area for container boxes located on the main highway of 100,000 square metres, Mr. Tayyan said.

Plans for the erection of Phosphate Berth C are still under consideration, Mr. Tayyan said, depending on the production of the Shadiya phosphate mines. At present, the capacity of Berth B, which can handle up to six million tons of phosphate, is sufficient as production is not yet at the four million ton level, he said.

The area designated for Phosphate Berth C cannot be used for anything other than phosphates due to the presence of the dust, he added. Commenting on the phosphate dust levels and their effect on the environment and the seabed, Mr. Tayyan said that a project for controlling the dust is under discussion between the

Ports Authority and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

Other recent projects include the asphalted of a storage area for chemicals which was completed in March of this year to ensure the safe storage of various chemicals away from the general storage area, Mr. Tayyan said. Also, the storage capacity of the Ministry of Supply grain silos in the main port area were increased from 50,000 tons to 150,000 tons in 1983, Mr. Tayyan said. Also last year, 36 offices were constructed at a cost of JD 300,000 which are leased by the Ports Corporation to various companies operating in the port.

Due to the development in Aqaba, the population of the city has risen from 5,000 in the 1960's to 39,000 in 1981 and the Ports Authority has constructed housing areas and facilities for the workforce Mr. Tayyan said. The authority has built married and bachelor housing in three areas in the vicinity of the port, continued Mr. Tayyan. At present 150 flats for married Port employees are under construction and accommodation for more than 2,300 bachelors has been completed.

In addition, a centre for civil consumer services is currently under construction and is expected to be finished in September of this year. Mr. Tayyan also said that a tender for the construction of a recreational area for children and a kindergarten is presently out to tender and will be awarded soon.

Computerisation

A new development that will improve the efficiency of the port and speed up operations is the purchase of a computer for administration, spare parts and storage handling.

Mr. Tayyan explained that the large increases in trade through the port demanded the installation of a computer and that specialists from UNCTAD have been studying the needs of the port and their computer requirements.

It is expected that the computer will be operational in one year and that it will greatly assist the activities of the port, concluded Mr. Tayyan.

Maritime slipway

Another important new project is the completion of a maritime slipway for the maintenance of boats, barges and lighters. The slipway, operational since July 1983, cost JD 1 million to construct and has a capacity of 360 tons per pull, which is expected to be doubled to 720 tons within the next year with the addition of another winch, Mr. Tayyan said.

The slipway has greatly facilitated the repairs and maintenance of the 31 barges used



Towards security in food

AN ARAB conference on the production, processing and marketing of cereals in the Arab World ended in Amman last week with calls for more efforts on the part of individuals, governments and specialised organisations to increase the production of cereals and foodstuffs to achieve the long-sought goal of food security for the Arab World. Delegates who addressed the conference were unanimous in their call for a pan-Arab food strategy, and they all admitted that the Arabs suffer from a huge shortage of food supplies. The Arab World, they said, imports nearly 25 million tonnes of cereals every year, and this costs at least \$7.5 billion, liable for increase in the coming years.

This is a pitiable situation by any standard. But what is more alarming, according to the delegates, is that the Arab production of cereals has been dropping by three per cent annually over the past few years.

The Arab World had in the past provided Europe with food supplies, specially cereals, and it is really sad to see the Arabs turning idle and importing bread along with weapons needed to defend themselves and other commodities, most of which can be produced locally. Arab states like Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, and Egypt can, if they want, produce sufficient food for their inhabitants, and can, if they exert more efforts, produce food for supplying other Arab states as well.

The delegates to the cereal conference in Amman met here in implementation of resolutions adopted by an Arab summit conference held in Amman in 1980. That summit and its resolutions were meant as guidelines for joint Arab action on the economic and social levels in addition to the military and political levels. But one has to remember that food security constitutes the basic foundation of any country's national security. There can be no military or political security without food security. Something we ought to remember is the pressure exerted by the U.S. on the Soviet Union when the latter expressed desire to purchase American wheat and the same thing happened against Arab countries.

It is therefore vitally important that a comprehensive Arab security should be backed by food security, and that the progress, independence and freedom of our future generations be free of external threats and pressures.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Every citizen's responsibility

THE RESPONSIBILITY of defending this nation and working towards achieving its progress lies with every citizen and not only with the government and its agencies. This was clearly pointed out by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat in his meeting with officials in Aqaba Sunday when he discussed projects under way at the port city, and other economic activities carried out by the Aqaba Region Authority. He also made it clear that progress can be achieved if all those involved in the projects work in a spirit of co-operation to serve the common goals.

Mr. Obeidat said that every citizen has his own share and his own duty and responsibility, and everyone should help the country to confront challenges and deal with all problems that might crop up in the course of implementing schemes.

The prime minister said that Jordan has so far made many achievements in various fields, but, he said, these can be protected and the country's progress maintained only through hard work, diligence and sacrifice.

Al Dustour: United ranks first

PERHAPS THE most curious thing about Arab diplomacy these days is disagreement among Arab states, which have been calling for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Although they agree on the need for holding such a conference, these countries fail to hold consultations and co-ordinate their positions vis a vis the conference and the steps that should be taken to prepare for it.

Arab countries which have no normal diplomatic ties and have no joint strategy among themselves are seeking support from countries of the Eastern and Western blocs for such a conference. We can hardly see any chance for such a conference to convene at any time as long as the Arab states are in disagreement about practically everything, including the topics that would be discussed at such a conference. How could Arab states hope for a solution to the Middle East countries and an international conference to guarantee it while they pursue their present stands and policies towards one another?

All Arab efforts at the international level will be in vain if the current state of affairs is allowed to continue and if the Arab states continue to disagree among themselves. The Arabs should unify their stands and form a strong power that can have influence on big and small nations alike and can, through their power, pave the way for holding such a conference and finally reach peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Both are the same

OPINION POLLS in Israel gave the opposition Labour Party a clear lead over the Likud bloc in the elections being held Monday. The Likud is bound to lose many seats in parliament due to Israel's deteriorating economy as a result of the invasion of Lebanon, the present colonisation policy of Israel and the cost of maintaining occupation in Arab land.

These issues have had their adverse effects on the economy and caused inflation to soar to 400 per cent. The election revolves around economic issues rather than peace issues with the Arab states. If the Labour Party wins the election the Arabs might witness a change in the Israeli policies but not to the better.

The Labour Party might start pressuring Jordan into accepting Zionist terms for ending the crisis without offering peace plans of its own. It might embark on a project for solving the Palestinian people's issue at the expense of Jordan and by completely ignoring and denying the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Therefore, whether the Labour or the Likud takes over government in Israel, there will be no change for those Arabs struggling to regain their rights. They should realise that the struggle against Israel should continue because Labour and the Likud are in fact two faces of the same coin.

What does the mirror show?

By Rami G. Khouri

THE STATUS of foreign workers in Jordan has been one of the great taboo issues of the past decade. It has also been one of the silent shames that this society will have to deal with one day, when we are less busy making money and have some more time to face up to our moral weaknesses. Our attitude to foreign labour, I suggest, has been one of these weaknesses.

I am not generally in the business of making sweeping statements, but I feel confident in saying that this society's attitude to foreign workers, on the whole, is cruel and possibly even tinged with a troubling dose of racism. All of these terrible things in a nice country like ours, you ask indignantly? Yes, and it has been going on for a long time.

The status of foreign workers and their rights was dramatised again last week when about 100 Indian labourers protested against their working conditions on a private farm in the Jordan Valley. The issue

seems to have been resolved temporarily, but it is only the tip of an iceberg of tens of thousands of foreign workers in Jordan who find themselves in difficult situations, but often without recourse either to the law or to sympathetic help.

I have spent a great deal of time in the Jordan Valley researching and writing a book on the area, and have talked at length with farmers, labourers and doctors who live and work there. There is no doubt that the majority of foreign labour (mainly Egyptian, Pakistani and Indian) is poorly paid, inadequately housed, malnourished and overworked, with the occasional exceptions, of course, of workers lucky enough to be hired by merciful employers who treat them humanely.

A similar situation pertains with Filipino and Sri Lankan house workers in Amman and other cities. Most of them come to Jordan simply on the promise of securing wage employment, which they may not

have in their home countries. Some are fortunate to work in homes where they are treated humanely, paid fairly, given a day's rest every week and required to work a reasonable number of hours every day. But many are not so fortunate.

I have run into cases of young ladies who are virtual prisoners in the homes of their employers, working seven days a week and not always getting paid the salary agreed upon in their contracts. Some people justify this (particularly for Sri Lankan househelp, it seems) by claiming that the workers do not care to go out and are happy to stay at home all week long. I find that impossible to believe. I wonder if Jordanian workers in Western Europe or the Gulf states are happy to work seven days a week?

Other Jordanian employers justify the low salaries they pay their workers (sometimes as low as JD 40-50 per month) by pointing out that the foreign workers are happy to be here and earn anything at all, given

the poverty and unemployment in their own countries. Or, on an even more twisted note, some people say if the foreign workers do not like their lot here, they can leave tomorrow and be replaced by others who are quite happy to work in Jordan. That may resolve the foreign workers' dilemma. But it only compounds our dilemma — that of a society that slips into the convenience of a psyche that views foreign workers like automotive spare parts, to be discarded and changed as needed.

I raise this topic because I feel it gives us an opportunity to come face-to-face with our own souls, with whom we really are and what we really feel. Are we simply good capitalists taking advantage of a good thing? A fulltime labourer for JD 50 a month seems a sure way to make money if you're producing plastic toys, abstrays or soft drinks. But if the economic cost is right, what about the moral cost? Or does that

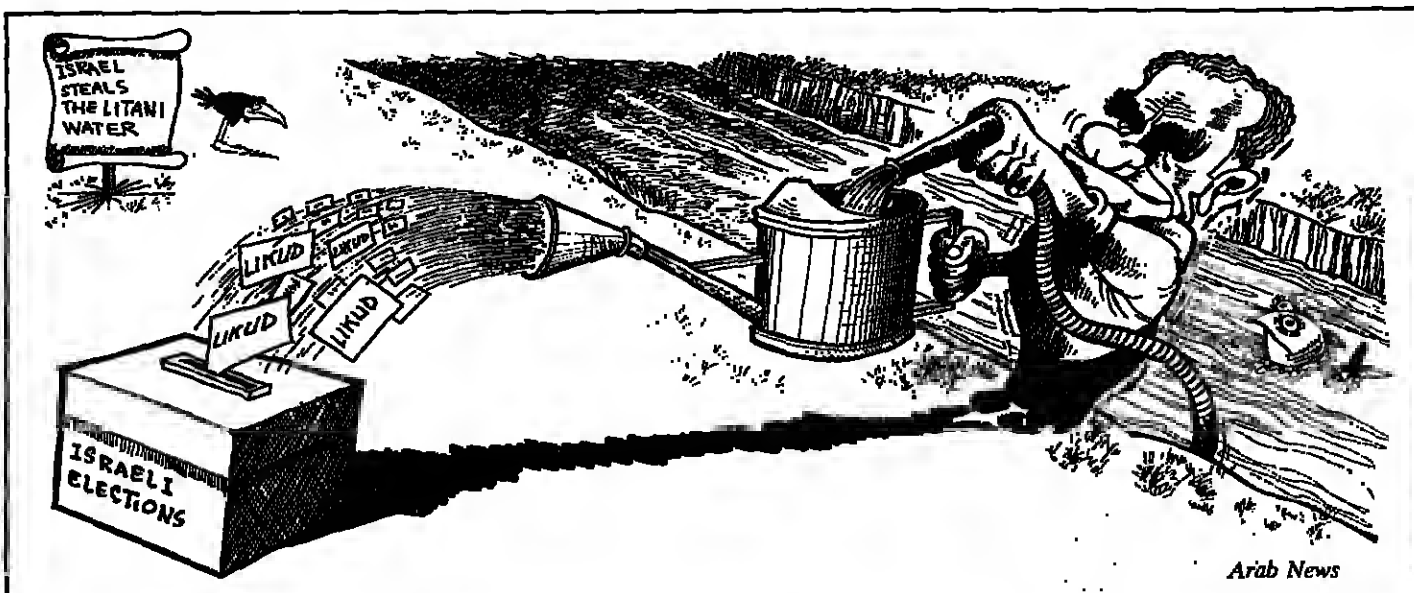
not figure into one's calculations these days?

By what moral standard do we feel it appropriate to complain, say, about the Western world's neglect of Palestinian and Arab rights, when we ourselves house Egyptian workers in structures that would probably be judged insufficient for chickens in other countries? We speak to the world in moral tones that are indignant and strident, shocked at justice denied and rights abused. By which moral code, therefore, do we then rationalise the status of some of the unfortunate Egyptian, Pakistani, Indian and Sri Lankan workers in Jordan?

I say again, before the wolves start snapping at me, that I am not accusing all Jordanians of treating all foreign workers badly. There are many satisfied foreign workers in the country, as one would expect amidst all the sunshine. But there are also tens of thousands — that's right, tens of thousands — of workers caught in terrible situations, poorly paid, inadequately housed and fed, and unable to do anything about it.

The whole point of governments, and laws, and a system of justice, I thought, was to safeguard the rights of abused minorities, in the face of the herd instincts of complacent majorities. I don't think it is only the role of the government to rectify the situation, for in the end, the government is a reflection of the people, and the society it serves and from whence it emanates. The problem originates within us all, within a megalith that washes its cars and marble staircases more often than it washes the flesh of its foreign workers.

I don't have the answers to this awkward matter. I simply raise the issue. I like to think that other concerned people might raise a mirror for us to look into, to see the reflections that come back at us, to pause for a brief moment and ponder what we have done, and what we have become.



Delors' selection reflects growing French, W. German EC influence

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The selection of France's Jacques Delors as president of the European Common Market shows the growing influence of a French-West German campaign to revitalise Europe.

The formal announcement Thursday of Mr. Delors' appointment came from the Irish government, which was given the job of consulting the other nine member governments and fashioning a consensus choice.

But in the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that preceded the announcement, it was the Bonn government that strongly backed Mr. Delors against unofficial candidates from smaller nations.

The decision to pick Mr. Delors was widely cheered in West European capitals, and by George Vest, the U.S. ambassador to the Common Market. Mr. Delors, 58, was finance minister in the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand that resigned Tuesday.

West German support was critical for Mr. Delors, since it had

previously been agreed informally within the Common Market that West Germany could have the job for the asking. But it never asked.

The choice of Mr. Delors came at a crucial time in the 27-year history of the Common Market, whose heart and soul are France and West Germany. The group is only beginning to solve its financial ills.

Mr. Delors, who will take over as chief executive of the Brussels Commission that runs the Common Market's daily affairs Jan. 1, is seen in many West European capitals as a more forceful and effective leader than the man he will succeed, Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg.

And in the West Germans' view, Mr. Delors represents a commitment to financial and political goals that could strengthen their unofficial partnership with France in seeking greater European unity.

The position of president of the Common Market has not held much sway in recent years. Mr. Thorn spent most of his four years in Brussels trying to help untangle the trading bloc's financial knots. But the worst of the money disputes was resolved last month at a Common Market summit conference. That opened the door for a new Common Market leadership to pick up the search for European unity.

France and West Germany are at the centre of that effort, while Britain — a late-comer to the Common Market and often the odd man out in policy debates within the group — has shown little enthusiasm for broadening the Common Market beyond an economic organ.

The Germans and French have made it clear in recent months that they believe the time is ripe to overhaul the Common Market. They want to give it a voice in political, technological and social issues.

And their partnership has gone beyond the bounds of the common market in some cases. There have been recent examples: — In May, the French and West Germans led a drive to breathe new life into a long dormant defence group called the Western European Union. They said the seven-nation organisation should be revived as a way of strengthening Europe's voice in the Western alliance.

— Earlier this week, the two countries put into effect a recent agreement to eliminate border-crossing formalities for their nationals. They touted this as an important first step towards involving citizens, not just governments, in the Common Market.

— On Tuesday, France's state-owned aerospace group, Aerospatiale, unveiled plans for Eurocopter, a \$25 billion joint venture with a West German company to jointly manufacture combat helicopters. The aircraft will be used by both countries' armed forces.

Much of the French-German partnership is linked to defence issues. Helmut Schmidt, the former West German chancellor, urged in a speech last month that West Germany and France undertake a "major security initiative" to, in effect, merge their armed forces.

Mr. Schmidt also suggested that if France were to expand its autonomous nuclear force to include the protection of West Germany, then W. Germany could take on much of the expense for increased conventional arms.

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Corsica election heats up separatist trends

By Mary Ellen Bortin
Reuters

AJACCIO, Corsica — Political temperatures are rising faster than the relentless summer heat in Corsica as the troubled French island gears up to elect its second regional assembly.

The August 12 vote marks another stage in a French government experiment aimed at defusing separatist violence and loosening the grip of the traditional clan system on the hot-blooded Mediterranean island.

Local politicians alternately blame each other and Paris for sabotaging Corsica's first elected assembly, which was dissolved by the government last month after political deadlock developed.

Bombs continue to punctuate the campaign, despite a decision by Corsican separatists to run candidates on two of 10 lists of politicians competing for power in the 61-seat assembly.

A recent visit to Ajaccio by then Interior Minister Gaston Defferre, architect of the Socialist government's Corsica Law, brought little relief to the torrid political climate.

"Corsica's self-administration statute just does not work," Jose Rossi, conservative UDF leader on the island, told Reuters. Mr. Defferre explained the dissolution of the assembly to elected officials in Ajaccio early this month.

He said the law did not give sufficient powers to the assembly, first elected in August 1982 to take over a range of powers formerly handled by a prefect appointed by Paris.

Mr. Rossi cited the example last summer of a broad majority vote to make Corsican language courses mandatory in schools, which was vetoed as unconstitutional by then Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy.

He also contested a statement by Mr. Defferre that state aid to Corsica had increased under the Socialists, saying government investment had dropped by 20 per cent since 1981.

"The assembly is an institution which was neither requested nor discussed by Corsicans," said Pierre Poggiali, the leading candidate of the Corsican Movement for Self-Determination (MCA), a group viewed as the political wing of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front.

"It provides no solution to the Corsican problem — it is only the

French state's solution to the Corsican problem."

Other Corsicans attribute the assembly's breakdown to the island's powerful family clans which receive electoral support in exchange for protection and favours. They say the clans felt the new body threatened their traditional role.

Francois Giacobbi of the centre-left Mouvement des Radicaux de Gauche (MRG) dominates the clan and politics of the north while Jean-Paul de Rocca-Serra of the Neo-Gaullist RPR Party holds sway in the south.

Rocca-Serra, a wily politician known locally as "the Silver Fox", is heading a joint conservative ticket grouping the RPR, the UDF and AJACCIO's Bonapartists, a Napoleonic legacy of the town's native son.

The group is expected to gain control of the assembly with the backing of the extreme rightist National Front, which won 13 per cent of the Corsican vote in the June European Elections.

Pascal Arrighi, a prominent figure on the island and former member of the RPR, heads the National Front list, giving the party and its anti-immigrant platform a strong personal boost.

A breakaway RPR ticket and a centrist independent list are also running, and there are three long-divided leftist groups.

Mr. Giacobbi, heading the MRG list, is counting on his support base in the north to carry him through against the Communist Party and a joint Socialist-Radical list including outgoing Assembly President Prosper Alfonsi.

Corsica's separatists, ranging from moderate autonomists to headline militants demanding total independence for Corsica, are expected to have trouble winning any seats.

When shifting political alliances stalemated the first Corsican body this spring, France's National Assembly cleared the way for a new election by raising the threshold of votes needed to gain assembly seats from 1.6 to five per cent.

The autonomist Union du Peuple Corse (UPC), which won seven seats in the first assembly, has good chances of representation.

But the headline MCA has refused to join forces with another separatist group, Populu Corsu, and neither is expected to clear the five per cent barrier.

LETTERS

Stop the bullets

To the Editor:

AN EIGHT-year-old boy died on Sunday night — the innocent victim of one of the most unattractive habits of certain senseless members of our community; he was shot in the head by a stray bullet whilst playing football outside his parents' home on a peaceful summer's evening last week. No one could pinpoint where the bullet came from — all that could be confirmed was that there were marriages being celebrated in the area — and it is assumed that one of these groups chose to give vent to this unnecessary, blatantly exhibitionist form of merry making.

We must take heed of the repeated governmental injunctions against an archaic habit, and realise that it is the responsibility of a caring community to avert further tragedies. But for the Grace of God that child could have been any one of ours. None of us can afford to turn their backs on what has become anti-social and dangerous practices.

(Princess) Sarvath Al Hassan,
Amman.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

PHON & WORDS

Every word was once a poem. Each began as a picture.

MAY:

This is when "the time of the singing birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." Sir Thomas Malory called it "the lusty month of May." It is strange that the romantic time of May has always been considered unlucky for marriage. The Romans objected to it for the quite understandable reason that it contained the feast in honour of Bona Dea who was the goddess of chastity. Also the festival of the unhappy dead fell in the month of May. The name May, in Latin *Maia*, is believed by many to have come from *Maia*, who was the mother of the god Hermes. The native English had a less romantic but much more practical name for the month. They called it *Thrimilce* because, in the long, spring days, the cows could be milked three times between sunrise and evening.

JUNE:

This name is probably from *Junius*, the name of a Latin family to which the murderers of Julius Caesar belonged. Some scholars believe, however, that the name June came from the goddess *Junia*, who was the protectress of women since June has been the favourite month for marriages all the way down from earliest Rome. It can be that the ancient taboos against May marriages are responsible for the modern June rush to the altar. The English name for June was *Sere-Monath*, or "dry-month."

JULY:

The name of this month was proposed by Mark Antony, the Roman general and famous lover of Cleopatra. Antony suggested that this birthday month of Julius Caesar be named *Julius* in his honour, and the name came into use in the year of Caesar's assassination. In English, the spelling became first *Julie* then *July*. But before the English adopted the Latin name, they had called the month *Moed-Monath*, or "meadow-month," since the meadows were in bloom and the cattle were in pasture.

AUGUST:

Octavian, the first Roman emperor, was the nephew of Julius Caesar, and longed to gain the fame and power of his uncle. He wanted, among other things, to have a month named after him. His birthday was in September, but he selected what is now known as August, for this particular month had been a fortunate one in his career. The Senate had given Octavian the official title of Augustus in honour of his distinguished services to the state, so the month he was chosen became *Augustus*, which was shortened to *August*. The prosy and downright English had called this the *Weed Month*, or "weed-month," although, in fairness, the word "weed" then applied to greenery in general.

— Ahmad Jaber

Peasant fishermen complain catch goes to cats rather than 'Third World' children

FISHERMEN, accusing the U.N. of giving preference to fish over fishers, recently aired their grievances in Rome. Peasant fishermen are being edged out by trawlers, and the catch is going to U.S. cats rather than "Third World" children.

By Jeremy Herliots

ROME — There are some 70 million people in the world who either catch fish for a living or depend upon those who do. But the documents announcing the recent U.N. "World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development" here did not contain a single reference to "fishermen", "fishworkers" or even "fisherwomen".

So several volunteer agencies got together and organised their own world "fishworkers" meeting here in early July at the same time as the U.N. conference to present the workers' hopes and problems. Fishworkers of 34 nations were represented.

Most were from the "Third World," where about half of the annual global catch of 75 million tonnes is landed. Much of the world's marine catch is hauled in by industrial fleets in the North Atlantic and North Pacific. But in the "Third World," most fish are caught by peasant fishermen. In Asia, small-scale, local fisheries provide two-thirds of the total catch; in Africa, five sixths of the total.

India has 20,000 trawlers, but 80 per cent of the fish caught in that country are pulled in by peasant fishers.

One of the main complaints of the "Third World" fishworkers is that trawlers either from their own nations or from far away are entering traditional peasant fishing grounds, robbing the fishermen of fish, jobs and income.

Many of the developing nations are "renting out" their new 200-mile "exclusive economic zones" sanctioned by the U.N. Law of the Sea treaty to trawlers from industrialised nations, and even from such developing countries as Cuba, Ghana, South Korea and Thailand.

"It is generally envisaged that such ventures will create jobs, increase production and incomes and generate foreign exchange," said a recent report by the London-based Overseas Development Institute (ODI). "But these benefits often fail to materialise, at least for the developing country partner, and fish resources have been

seriously depleted through overfishing.

Peasant fishermen, never consulted when such deals are made, called in Rome for their own "exclusive zones", prohibited to trawlers, a few miles out from the beaches.

Much of the catch from Third World waters goes to feed "Northern" livestock and pets, not "Third World" people. Producers of Moroccan canned fish, who had developed the industry for Middle Eastern markets, found they could get a better price selling the fish to the United States to become cat food. Professor George Keat of Hawaii University told the fishworkers' meeting.

"Fisheries development... offers a potential for meeting the increasing nutritional demands for both urban and rural areas" in the "Third World", the ODI report said. But the produce of industrialised fisheries rarely reaches this target. Thailand increased its export revenue from fish over 700-fold from 1962 to 1982, and in 1982 caught two million tonnes of fish. But in one Thai province,

65 per cent of children below five years old suffer protein deficiency, according to a Thai Health Department report.

At the fishworkers' conference, the problem of pollution came up often. Industries often poorly regulated in developing countries dump chemicals in rivers, and productive estuaries die. Some 10 per cent of the world fish catch comes from inland waters, much of this from the flooded rice fields and farm ponds of Asia. But fish there are rapidly succumbing to pesticide poisoning.

Women do much of the work on the world's fish after they are caught (and in the developing world, much of the fishing as well). Mrs. Bineta Diallo of Senegal, who works in a fish processing factory, said, "Imagine standing all day in ice in freezing temperatures without boots or gloves. Sanitary conditions are awful; 700 workers share eight toilets".

"Third World" fishpeople tend to be poor, often poorer than other rural groups. Malaysia is one of the richest developing countries in Southeast Asia, but 73 per cent of all fishing households are below the poverty line.

One U.S. biologist who attended the U.N. fisheries meeting, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),

complained that FAO — influenced by the big fishing nations such as Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States — emphasises "production" with virtually no thought of conserving stocks so that the harvests will be sustainable over the coming years.

The "Third World" offers the most scope for fisheries expansion. The total annual world demand for fish is expected to reach 110 million tonnes by the end of the century, but with world catches growing at only 1 per cent a year, the catch by the year 2000 will be 20 million tonnes short of demand.

"This will inevitably result in higher prices", said the ODI report. "But more seriously, it will have a severe impact on the many individuals and communities in the 'Third World' that depend on fish to maintain even the most meagre of diets."

It will also mean fiercer, perhaps violent, competition for limited catches between the big trawlers and the small, politically weak peasant fishermen.

The fishermen in Rome set up an international network to seek ways to improve the plight of the peasant fishers, to ensure that there are both fish and small-scale fisheries left by the year 2000. — Earthscan feature.



A Sudanese fisherman. About half of the 75 million tonnes of fish caught each year are landed in developing countries. Yet competition and conflicts between Third World fishermen and industrial fisheries are increasing yearly (Earthscan photo)

Peking telephone system creaking

By Eric Hall

PEKING — Peking's creaking telephone system, already threatening to hold up China's ambitious development plans because it is slow and inadequate, is on the verge of collapse, the China daily said Tuesday.

It said the city's obsolete network was working close to breaking point and communications officials live in daily fear that it could break down altogether.

Last week the Peking Evening News sharply attacked the city telephone office, saying the service was maddeningly slow and the operators rude. It was also virtually impossible to get a new phone installed.

Even the city's international

hotels, home to most of the foreign companies which China has attracted to do business under its new open-door policy, have appalling communications.

At the Peking Hotel in the centre of town, it regularly takes up to half an hour to get a local connection.

One Hong Kong businessman living in a nearby hotel finally gave up trying to ring the Peking Hotel and instead took a taxi to deliver his message personally, the Evening News said.

Peking's problems reflect the situation throughout the country where until recently communications were given only low priority.

In the past, the government viewed telephones as potentially subversive machines and numbers and access were strictly limited to

foreigners and necessary officials. This attitude is only gradually changing, even though it is now government policy to develop the country's communications network.

The China daily quoted Gao Yanzong, head of the Peking Telecommunications Administration, as saying the system was in the process of a complete change which should be completed in about four years.

Mr. Gao said that in the past 30 years Peking's industry had grown by almost 100 times but the number of its telephones had only doubled to 120,000 units.

This was a result of "our past ignoring of the vital role of the telephone service in the modern economy and in people's daily life," he told the China daily.

Mr. Gao said the Evening News

criticism had hit a raw nerve but although the bureau now demanded patience and politeness from its staff, it simply could not satisfy customer requirements yet.

Peking has 3.7 telephones per 100 residents, compared with Tokyo's 81.2, Moscow's 33.9 and a staggering rate of almost two per person in Washington.

Mr. Gao said his bureau hoped to double the number of units in three years and reach half a million in another decade.

China's desperate need for basic telecommunications equipment has attracted the attention of many overseas firms in the United States, Japan and Europe.

Canada's Northern Telecom recently won a contract to provide a one-million-dollar private branch exchange to the Peking Hotel.

Chileans read little since the junta imposed military reign

By Eduardo Gallardo

Associated Press

SANTIAGO — Chilean literature, which has produced two Nobel Prize winners, is alive but not well, experts say, because Chileans are not reading anymore.

No firm figures are available, but writers and spokesmen for the nation's largest publishing houses and book stores say that book sales have dropped 50 to 60 per cent in the past decade.

Those experts generally attribute the fall to a number of factors, but especially to an unfavourable political climate for culture under the military regime and the long economic crisis.

The average edition of a book these days is only 3,000 copies, the same as it was in the 1930s, when Chile's population was less than half its present 11 million and the national illiteracy rate was much higher than the present six per cent.

"That is not an edition, that is a sample," Jose Donoso, the internationally renowned novelist, said in an interview.

"Chileans are reading less than ever before," says Hector Velez, a spokesman for the Book Fair, Chile's largest bookstore.

"Sixty per cent of the bookstores that existed in Chile 10 years ago have closed down."

Mr. Velez said that there aren't more than a dozen bookstores left in downtown Santiago, a city of four million.

"We are not selling literature books anymore," complains Nena Barros, who works at a small book store in downtown Santiago.

"People are buying only textbooks that are mandatory at their children's schools."

Writers and critics insist that the quality of Chilean literature has nothing to do with the problem. They note that the phenomenon also affects foreign authors.

Chilean literature has traditionally been considered one of high quality. Two Chilean poets won the Nobel literature prize — Gabriela Mistral in 1945 and Pablo Neruda in 1971.

"Chilean literature today is as good as always. It is not better, it is not worse," said Luis Sanchez Latorre, an author and critic who for a decade was president of the Chilean Writers Society.

Most experts blame the political situation and the economic crisis. A book costs between \$1.50 and \$12 in Chile, where the minimum legal monthly salary is \$60 and unemployment stands well above 20 per cent.

"The political situation affects the whole literary and cultural development of the country," said Mr. Sanchez Latorre. "Dictatorships are never interested in culture."

Chile has been ruled by a military regime since a 1973 bloody coup which overthrew the elected government of Marxist President Salvador Allende.

The military regime occasionally imposed outright censorship and until August of last year a government authorisation was needed to publish any book.

Sometimes, authors say, they had to wait up to eight months before getting government authorisation.

Mr. Velez of the Book Fair said: "We feel there is a total lack of interest in all aspects of culture within the government."

And author Donoso, whose novel "Coronation" has been translated into several languages, said that "censorship, government control over the universities and the lack of a free press" also have hurt literature in Chile.

Some book store keepers admitted that they often avoid carrying certain books they think may offend or displease the government.

A book that sells more than 15,000 copies these days must be considered a best-seller, according to Mr. Velez. One such case is "Winds of War" by American Herman Wouk. The book's release coincided with the showing of the television series based on the novel.

These are exceptions. The House of Spirits, a novel by exiled Chilean author-journalist Isabel Allende, has sold over 100,000 copies since it became available here last year. Before that it posted a similar success in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries.

The novel, which combines fiction with a barely disguised political account, is in its 13th edition in Spanish and being translated into other languages.

Novelist Donoso pointed out that Isabel Allende herself "is another product of the political repression because she left the country as a result of the coup."

Mrs. Allende now lives in Caracas, Venezuela.

Swedes to rely less on nuclear energy, more on hydro power

STOCKHOLM — An in-depth study of Sweden's future supply, transformation, transmission and use of energy has been made by the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and the results were made public at the end of June in Stockholm. The full report entitled "Energi och Ekonomi" (Energy and Economy) will be published in the autumn.

The academy focuses on the energy policy bill passed by Sweden's parliament in 1981, which was based on the outcome of the referendum on nuclear power in 1980. The goals laid down in the bill included the gradual development of an energy system based on renewable domestic sources of energy; the efficient use of available energy sources; reducing the dependence on oil; and the phasing out of nuclear power until its complete elimination in the year 2010. The bill also called for safeguards to limit the undesirable effects of energy consumption on man and the environment, and for keeping the costs to society to a minimum.

It is not clear how the four first goals can be reconciled with each other and balanced against the two latter goals, IVA says adding that big changes in the energy system will be required within the next decades.

The basic view of the report is that market forces should govern the development of the energy system. This leads to optimum utilisation of the resources and a correct balance between supply and

use of energy, it is stated. If taxes are to be imposed on energy at all they should not be designed to favour or treat unfairly any particular kind of energy; and in the case of industry, taxation should be in the form of a value-added tax.

The academy recommends that the change-over to electricity, which started at the turn of the century be allowed to continue, since electric power offers extremely great flexibility for both producers and users. One way to achieve this would be to extend hydro power by 12 TWh but with less water storage regulation than earlier. At least one river system should be left intact.

On nuclear power, the report suggests that the Riksdag decision for a phasing-out by 2010 should be reconsidered. Existing nuclear plants should be utilised as long as they are economically viable and meet health and environmental demands. Extensive but economically viable re-investments should also be made and nuclear heat installations should be permitted, IVA says.

District heating should be used as far as possible in densely populated areas, elsewhere heat pumps and electric power should be used for heating purposes. IVA finds that there is no need to set up any particular targets to reduce Sweden's dependence on oil.

In the field of research the study recommends vigorous efforts to identify the effects of different

kinds of energy on health and environment. Within applied research and technological development, priority should be given to those areas which are of the greatest importance for Sweden's future energy system.

The state is to be responsible for establishing the necessary environmental standards in connection with the use of different forms of energy. Such standards should not discriminate against or favour any particular source of energy, IVA states.

Commenting on the IVA study, the Swedish Minister for Energy Birgitta Dahl says that the academy has not analysed those alternatives which the government and a broad parliamentary majority are working for. IVA wrongly presupposes that the entire disappearance of nuclear power must be replaced by new production of electricity. The representatives of industry and research show a remarkable pessimism concerning the development of new, economically viable energy technologies and that is why their conclusions are so misleading, says Mrs. Dahl.

Last two nuclear units to be started

The Swedish government on June 26 authorised the supply of nuclear fuel to Forsmark 3 and Oskarshamn 3, the two last units of Sweden's nuclear programme totalling 12 plants — Newsletter from Sweden.

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Some snags, but smooth run-up to Olympics

LOS ANGELES (R) — After the boycotts and the bickering, the final stretch of the road to the Los Angeles Olympic Games appeared Monday to be surprisingly smooth.

Doubts and questions remained, in particular whether, after the withdrawal by the Soviet Union and other countries, the games of the 23rd Olympiad will live up to their Hollywood-style billing as the greatest sporting spectacular in history.

But with five days to go before the opening ceremony, games officials can state that their novel and controversial approach to running an Olympics by relying on private enterprise to pay the bills has worked.

Last-minute snags abound but none appears serious, according to games officials and members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting here this week.

Some of the 7,800 competitors from 141 nations pouring into the Olympic villages have grumbled about the cramped conditions, and several star U.S. athletes say they prefer to find their own accom-

modation.

Already many athletes have reported sore throats, apparently caused by Los Angeles' notorious smog which has raised fears that performances, particularly in endurance events, will be below Olympic standards.

Although more money has been spent on security for the games than on any other item, concern lingers that the 18,000-strong army of police and other security personnel cannot guarantee the athletes' safety.

Turkey has withdrawn its two-man cycling team, saying the riders were vulnerable to attack on long stretches of road away from well-protected sports arenas.

The Los Angeles games have been advertised as a technological marvel, but several major news agencies have complained bitterly that their communications lines have not been installed, more than

a week behind schedule.

Outside the games venues, residents of Los Angeles grumble that the city's highway system, already overloaded, will be swamped by the anticipated seven to 10 per cent increase in traffic that the Olympics will bring.

Ticket scalpers, who had expected to make a killing from sports fans willing to pay any price for seats, also are not happy.

Tickets for some prime events are changing hands for little more than their original price compared with more than \$500 each a month ago.

While admitting that mistakes have been made, games chief Peter Ueberroth says the most important goal has already been achieved: The Los Angeles Games, for the first time since the Olympics were last staged here in 1932, will not suffer a loss.

The much-criticised system of relying entirely on private business sponsors to foot the bills has paid off, he says.

Ueberroth also says that with a budget of \$500 million, the games have cost a fraction of recent Olympiads.

S. Korea intends talks with N.Korea on joint '88 team

LOS ANGELES (AP) — South Korea will take "the first practical opportunity" to initiate new talks with North Korea for the formation of a joint team to compete in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, the president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, Rho Tae Woo, said Monday.

But in an Associated Press interview, Rho indicated that a lack of "mutual trust" between the two Koreas still impeded such an initiative.

He declined to comment on a threatened Soviet bloc boycott of the Seoul Games, but stressed that every member nation of the Olympic family "is obliged to take part in the Olympic Games in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Olympic Charter."

"The entire Korean people is committed to reviving the noble spirit of the Olympic movement and heal the damage inflicted on the Olympic movement by the (American and Soviet) boycotts of the 1980 games in Moscow and the 1984 games in Los Angeles," Rho said.

"The Olympic Games are a forum for bringing together countries with different ideologies. We hope the Seoul Games will make a great contribution to world peace and to the unity of our people."

"We intend to take the initiative for reopening talks (with North Korea) whenever an opportunity arises."

The last round of talks, aimed at setting up a joint Korean team for the Los Angeles Olympics opening July 28, was broken off in Panmunjom, in the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas, following the North Korean decision to join the boycott of the Los Angeles Games.

On Sunday, Rho presented to a closed meeting of the executive board of the International Olympic Committee his first progress report on preparations for the 1988 games. IOC Director Monique Berlioux told a news conference the report mentioned some "remaining problems" in the Seoul preparations, but she declined to identify them.

Rho said the problems were

mainly over scheduling crucial events in gymnastics and track and field so as to take account of the 13-hour time difference between Seoul and New York for live television coverage in prime viewing time in the United States.

ABC is paying an estimated \$225 million for live coverage of the Los Angeles Games, and television revenue is also expected to pay a large part of the costs of the Seoul Games. But all three American television networks competing for the Seoul contract have objected that important sports events held in Korea in the afternoon or evening would appear live on American screens in the early morning and be lost to most viewers.

Budd receives clearance to represent Britain

LOS ANGELES (R) — South African-born runner Zola Budd Sunday received formal clearance to represent Britain in the Los Angeles Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board accepted a statement from British Olympic Association chairman Charles Palmer that Budd, 18, was British by descent and not by naturalisation, which would

have left her eligibility open to question under current rules.

"This is now a settled question," IOC Director Monique Berlioux told a news conference after the executive meeting. "It is up to the executive board to decide on eligibility, and they have now decided."

Before she arrived in Britain on March 24, Budd had competed only in South Africa, which is barred from the Olympics because of its racial policies.

British newspapers reported last week that some African countries had threatened not to compete against Budd in the games, but Berlioux said no formal protest had been made by any country.



The 25-member Jordanian team Monday poses for a photograph with Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat (centre) prior to their departure for Los Angeles Olympic Games (Petra photo)

'Oweidat meets Olympians before departure to Games

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Olympic team left for the Los Angeles Monday morning to participate in the 23rd Olympic Games. An official announcement said the team, headed by Muhammad Jamil Musa Abu Al Tayyeb, Director of the Jordan Youth Organisation includes 13 athletes and 12 officials (coaches and administrators). Six athletes will take part in track and field events while the other seven will be involved in the shooting contest.

This year's Olympics is the second games Jordan

has participated in. The Kingdom took part in the last Olympic Games in Moscow four years ago.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat met with the delegation at Al Hussein Youth City prior to their departure and wished them success. The delegation was seen off by Director General of Al Hussein Youth City Issam Arida, the Jordan Youth Organisation's managing and financial director, Mr. Ayed Hijazi and a number of sports figures in Jordan.



Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles wearing a sombrero to welcome Mexican contestants at the World Wheelchair Games Sunday.

Prince Charles opens disabled games

STOKE MANDEVILLE, England (AP) — Prince Charles opened the seventh World Wheelchair Games here Sunday, and after praising the determination and courage of disabled people at the formal ceremony he met many of the 1,100 competitors from 40 nations.

The quadrennial "Paralympics"

as the games are known switched to this small English town, where sport for paraplegics was first organised 40 years ago, after the United States cancelled as host nation last March.

The Games originally had been scheduled to be held at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, but then the American Wheelchair Association said it had not been able to raise the necessary funds.

Stoke Mandeville hospital, which pioneered wheelchair games among Britain's disabled World War II veterans, agreed to take over and set about raising £420,000 (\$554,400). The British domestic news agency Press Association said it is currently only £50,000 (\$66,000) short of the target.

But the switch from America has meant fewer competitors. A

total of 2,750 competitors had been scheduled to compete in Illinois.

The Olympic torch was carried into the stadium by Terry White, a member of the 115-strong British team. British discus thrower John Harris took the Olympic oath on behalf of all the athletes.

Then 1,110 pigeons — one for every competitor — were set free to symbolise peace and unity.

Prince Charles told the competitors: "I do not believe I in any way could compete with many of you in the kinds of standards you attain. It really is for me extremely humbling to see what can be achieved with the kinds of difficulties and disadvantages you have."

The first Paralympics were held in Rome in 1960. Two countries are taking part for the first time this year, Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe.

Beaten Hinault will take on Fignon again

PARIS (R) — Bernard Hinault, the Napoleon of cycling, has finally met his Waterloo in the Tour de France and a new age has dawned after his decisive defeat at the hands of fellow Frenchman Laurent Fignon.

Fignon, blond, handsome and 23, rode to victory Sunday with a huge time advantage of 10 minutes 32 seconds over Hinault after three weeks and 3,900 km of endurance cycling.

He won last year but Hinault, 29 and four times the Tour winner, was out through injury. So Sunday was the first time the Breton — dubbed the Badger for his fighting ways — finished the tour anywhere below first place.

The pundits swiftly wrote off their former favourite as finished, but in a full-page newspaper advertisement Monday he announced: "I will be back again next

year," adding the warning: "The Badger still has claws."

The news could not dim the brilliance of Fignon's success. His win last year at the tender age of 22 was greeted with surprise and followed the withdrawal of race leader Pascal Simon with a broken shoulder-bone.

This year he had something to prove, and he did so in style. On the long run down western France and across the south he played a waiting game, but in two days in the Alps he devastated the field and was never worried again.

The moment when Hinault's reign ended came in the long switchback climb to the ski station of Alpe d'Huez. The older man made his break too soon, and as he hit the climb he flagged and a merciless Fignon overtook with ease.

The following day he climbed to win at La Plagne and the 1984 tour was decided.

Mandlikova in command as Czechoslovakia wins Fed Cup

SAO PAULO (R) — Czechoslovakia beat Australia Sunday to retain the Federation Cup women's tennis title in a tie dominated by the faultless style of their top player, Hana Mandlikova.

Mandlikova, ranked third in the world, took charge of play in the second singles when Czechoslovakia were one down after Anne Minter scored a shock 7-5, 7-5 win over Helena Sukova.

The Czechoslovak ace demolished Elizabeth Sayers 6-1, 6-0 in a match that prompted the Australian to say afterwards: "At times I was ashamed of what I was doing."

"Hana was at her best. No matter how I tried, she would get to the ball."

Mandlikova went on to partner Sukova in the doubles, sweeping the Australians away 6-2, 6-2 in just 54 minutes. Sayers and Wendy Turnbull did their best, but against Mandlikova's speed

and accuracy it was not enough.

Sukova's defeat Sunday was the only match the second-seeded Czechoslovaks lost on their way to retaining the title, which they won in Zurich last year from the United States, top seeds here.

At the closing ceremony, where the winners received their \$70,000 prize, Mandlikova praised the eighth-seeded Australians for their sportsmanship and their unexpected semifinal victory over the Americans.

Australian team captain Judy Dalton said after the tie: "Our girls did not play their best, but nor did they flop. The merit must go to Czechoslovakia."

"We must confess we did not expect to reach the final."

Mandlikova was asked what she had to do to seize the number one spot in women's tennis from Czechoslovak-born Martina Navratilova. She replied: "Eat more soup."

Lauda's victory puts pressure on Prost

BRANDS HATCH, England (R) — "Damage over Piquet when he dropped out on the 27th lap of a race," Lauda has won the British Grand Prix, bringing him closer to current world "motor racing" championship leader Alain Prost.

Prost's gear selector broke Sunday, putting him out of the race, and he may have had a worrying sense of events seeming to repeat themselves.

Nine months ago at Brands Hatch, Prost, then as Monday leading the world drivers' title, could only finish second in the European Grand Prix to Nelson Piquet of Brazil who took a priceless nine points.

This win was to prove the springboard from which Piquet captured the World Championship three weeks later in South Africa when Frenchman Prost had to pull out with engine trouble.

This year it was not Piquet the frustrated Prost had to watch take the chequered flag, but McLaren teammate Lauda whose easy win now makes him the biggest threat to Prost winning his first championship.

Prost's mechanical problems were doubly frustrating as he was leading, with a two-second advantage, when Piquet's engine failed.

Victory, even with Lauda coming second, would have given him a handy cushion of 13½ points in his search for his first world title.

On the evidence of Brands, McLaren has the title in their grasp, whichever of their drivers win it.

Once Piquet was mastered — his Brabham suffered turbo problems with only five laps to go, pushing him down to seventh — there was nobody to mount a challenge.

Lauda now has a seven and a half point cushion over third-placed Elio de Angelis who came fourth Sunday.

The Renaults plugged away in fine style without getting to grips with Lauda while Ferrari's battles were being fought well off the pace, with both of their drivers finishing over one lap behind.

If the cars don't let the drivers down, it appears to be a straight fight between Prost and Lauda, unless Piquet can once again mount a late challenge.

Ballesteros wins British golf title

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (R) — The venerable silver claret jug held high above his head signified clearly that, whatever his problems so far this year, Severiano Ballesteros was back on top.

Ballesteros had just won the British Open Golf Championship and its trophy Sunday, for the second time, with a cool destruction of the defending champion and

five-time winner, American Tom Watson.

Now the 27-year-old Spaniard may be about to embark on a bid to prove that he is the best golfer in the world.

His two-shot victory signified he may be ready to lay siege on the honours in the game. He displayed absolute coolness and calmness of spirit all

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Continental Illinois admits negligence in making loans

CHICAGO (R) — Continental Illinois, one of the 10 biggest U.S. banks, says negligence in lending huge sums to another bank which went out of business had contributed to its own serious financial problems.

While bank officials and federal banking regulators in Washington continued to seek another bank which might bail it out, Continental Illinois itself released a report Sunday admitting "improper lending practices" in dealings with Penn Square Bank of Oklahoma which failed in July, 1982.

In the 18 months before that Continental's lending to Penn Square had grown from about \$200 million to \$1.075 billion.

The internal report, made public more than a year after it was drawn up by a group of directors, said that Continental Illinois kept on lending to Penn Square despite warnings as early as April, 1981, that all was not well with its loan review procedures.

The report laid the blame largely on the bank's mid-continent division. By autumn of 1981 it had tied up 36 per cent of its loan portfolio on loans purchased from or entered into with Penn Square.

It named three bank executives as being negligent in granting loans or supervising loan procedures.

It said loans were approved without proper higher clearance, without proper checks on the credit

rating of borrowers and without taking account of borrowers' failures to repay loans on schedule.

It said Penn Square had lent one of the three men \$565,000 — eight times his annual salary — and that when questioned about the loan the official had expressed surprise at the suggestion that there might be a conflict of interest.

"This was how Oklahoma bankers treated their friends," the official was quoted as saying. The official was not dismissed.

The report recommended bank shareholders to pursue a suit against the three men but it recommended dropping action against several other executives and directors named in the suit.

World Bank is considering new assistance programmes

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, fearful that growing economic problems in the Third World may become unmanageable, is considering profound changes in the way it helps developing countries.

"Times have changed and needs have changed," one senior bank official explained.

Bank officials told a press seminar last month that the assistance agency was deeply concerned that the current global debt crisis would seriously limit new commercial bank lending to the Third World for years to come.

The officials said this meant developing countries would have to turn increasingly to multilateral assistance agencies for funds or face even greater economic turmoil and perhaps political upheaval.

According to officials, who did not want to be identified, the World Bank and is considering a number of options. These include: — Formation of a subsidiary bank similar to a commercial bank that would be able to borrow in the market place and make more funds available to countries than the World Bank can.

— Development of a medium-term, economic adjustment loan that would complement the shorter-term balance of payments assistance provided by its sister agency, the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

— A new approach to setting conditions to which countries must adhere in order to obtain assistance.

Many of these ideas are only at the early stages of review and contain elements that are highly controversial and which are certain to run into resistance even at the staff

level. Although debate among industrial and developing countries is likely to be heated and possibly divisive, officials said some of the proposals could be put in place by next year.

The World Bank, at the forefront of development assistance since its founding after World War II, now makes long-term, low or no-interest loans to countries for projects ranging from road construction to increased food production.

As the dimensions of the Latin American debt crisis became apparent, the bank stepped up assistance designed to allow countries to reform their economies while keeping up their debt service payments.

Its loans often carry a maturity of 20 years, as compared with the IMF which generally provides funds for only a year or two to help a country solve its balance of payments problems.

Advocates of the new economic adjustment loans within the bank suggest these could be for eight or 10 years, longer than IMF loans, but shorter than traditional World Bank assistance.

The new loan programme, if adopted, "would let indebted countries take a breather" for a few years while they sorted out their economic problems, said one official.

Also being considered is what is called the Bank's Bank, which would provide financial services to the Third World similar to those offered in the past by commercial banks.

The World Bank has what is known as a one-to-one gearing ratio. This means it can only lend as much as it has in assets.

The Bank's Bank, as it is being discussed, could have a lending ratio of 10 to one or even 20 to one, so it could lend much more than it has in assets, just as commercial banks do.

The World Bank enjoys highly favourable loan costs when it borrows in the market place because of its very conservative lending policies.

Officials said one problem that could arise with the subsidiary bank is that it would presumably have less favourable borrowing rates because of its much higher lending-to-assets ratio.

They fear this could have an impact on the World Bank's own borrowing in the market place, raising its costs.

The new programmes being discussed may also be viewed with some suspicion by the United States, the bank's largest member and largest contributor.

The Reagan administration has generally opposed what it views as a blurring of the roles of the World Bank and the IMF. The White House may not like the idea of having the World Bank stray into the economic adjustment loan area which has long been the province of the IMF, officials said.

Britain denies debts-Dikko relationship

LONDON (R) — Britain has denied a newspaper report Monday that Nigeria is refusing to settle its international debts until ex-minister Mr. Umaru Dikko is returned for trial.

The Daily Mail said in a front-page report that Nigeria's military rulers held Mr. Dikko personally responsible for running up more than £1 million (\$1.3 million) of his country's debts, and would not settle them until he is brought back.

U.S. economy surges ahead in second quarter, dollar soars to topple more records

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States economy surged ahead in the second quarter of 1984 at a yearly rate of 7.5 per cent, a faster pace than a preliminary estimate last month, the government said Monday.

A Commerce Department report showed that the Gross National Product (GNP), the broadest measure of the nation's output of goods and services, continued to rise strongly, as it had in the first quarter.

The new figure of 7.5 per cent compared with the government's so-called flash estimate last month of 5.7 per cent.

The department also reported that GNP growth leapt 10.1 per cent in the January-March quarter of 1984. It had earlier estimated growth at a 9.7 per cent annual rate.

The revised first quarter figure matches the expansion that took place in the first three months of 1981. Both were the strongest since the economy bounded ahead at an 11 per cent yearly rate in the second quarter of 1978.

The brisk economic growth over the first half of 1984 did not ignite inflation. Prices increased by only 3.2 per cent in the April-June quarter after rising 4.4 per cent in the first three months of the year.

Despite the apparent good news on prices, the continuing, powerful expansion is likely to worry the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, and could push it towards adopting tighter monetary policies aimed at slowing inflation.

This in turn was also likely to heighten fears of higher interest rates. Borrowing costs have moved up this year and the prime lending rate that banks charge their best customers now stands at 13 per cent, two points higher than in January.

Economists have said that inter-

est rates were rising partly because the prolonged period of rapid business growth has brought a clash between heavy private demands for credit to fuel the expansion and the government's need to borrow money to finance the budget deficit, expected to reach about \$177 billion this year.

The GNP report said the increase during the April-June quarter was due to heavy sales, spurred by a continuing consumer spending spree.

By contrast, in the first three months of 1984 inventory investment fuelled most of the GNP gain while sales chalked up modest increases.

Before adjustments for inflation, the report said the economy grew at a 10.9 per cent annual rate in the second quarter of this year, only slightly slower than the 14.9 per cent pace recorded in the first three months of the year.

GNP rose 3.5 per cent in 1983.

Dollar surges
On expectations that the U.S. economy will continue to boom

undeterred by high interest rates the dollar soared on foreign exchanges Monday topping more records.

Enthusiasm for the dollar took it to all-time peaks against the French franc and South African rand and to a 10-1/2-year opening high against the mark in Frankfurt and London, while its strength depressed gold to around \$335 an ounce, not much above its early July lows of \$332.

In European centres the dollar touched 2.8780 marks and threatened soon to break through the 10-year peak of 2.8790 set at the official Frankfurt fixing on Jan. 8, 1974.

In Tokyo, enthusiastic buyers took the dollar to a 10-month high of 246.30 yen, before a similar mood took over in Europe.

The dollar went to a seven-year high of 2.4335 Swiss francs in Zurich, and the story was repeated in Paris, where the U.S. currency soared to a record 8.8035 francs.

In London sterling opened at \$1.3206, above the recent record lows of around \$1.30, but then

dipped below \$1.32. The pound is being helped by a hasty increase two weeks ago in British bank base rates of two per cent.

Gold fell more than \$9 to start at \$332.75 an ounce in Zurich, with traders' interest dampened by the high returns guaranteed by investment in U.S. assets, while inflation there also remains low.

The morning fixing price for gold in London was \$335.25, the lowest for 23 months.

In Johannesburg the South African rand, hurt by the weak market for the nation's major product, sank to a record low of 65.95 cents.

For the time being there seems no reason for the dollar to abandon its strong position since market expectations of higher U.S. interest rates are still very much alive, one dealer said.

At the daily Frankfurt fixing session, the dollar was set at a 10-1/2-year high of 2.8705 marks, up one and half pfennigs from Friday. The German central bank, the Bundesbank, sold \$51.9 million.

Japanese companies hurl across the Pacific

NEW YORK — Battle Creek, Michigan, in the United States, sandwiched between Lakes Michigan and Huron, is the home of Kellogg's Cornflakes, a concoction originally devised by a strict Seventh-Day Adventist intent on developing a non-meat protein. The city now houses what sounds like an equally bizarre business venture — a Japanese chewing gum company.

Taking on the might of Wrigley (sales last year of \$582 million, market share of 60 per cent) from a base of virtually nil might seem to be a forlorn venture. But Lotte, the leading confectionery manufacturer in Japan, is embarking on the long slog up the mountain with typical Japanese patience.

Mr. Tasuo Suzuki, a Lotte executive, expresses surprise when asked if the company's self-confessed problems in establishing a distribution network might force it to quit the U.S. market.

"We expect to make a profit in the year to March 1985," he insists.

Lotte is an example of the new generation of Japanese companies moving into the U.S. as the wave of investment from across the Pacific advances into a mature phase.

A large proportion of the household names of Japanese industry now produces goods in one way or the other in the U.S.

The Japanese have built up their U.S. interests at an explosive pace.

In 1973, Japanese investments in the U.S. amounted to \$152 million, only 0.7 per cent of total foreign investment. By 1981 this figure had grown to \$7 billion, and in 1982 jumped again to \$8.7 billion, rising in the latter two years from 7.7 per cent of total net foreign investment to 8.5 per cent.

This surge still leaves Japan well behind the U.K., which had investments of \$23.3 billion at the end of 1982 (after a \$7.7 billion leap in one year), the Netherlands (\$21.4 billion), and Canada (\$9.8 billion). But it has now overtaken West Germany (\$8.2 billion), and is well ahead of France (\$4.7 billion).

The relative strength of the Japanese investment drive can be traced to a number of separate factors. The first, and most obvious, is the rise of protectionist pressures.

"Trade issues such as dumping were just beginning to emerge when we bought our factory from Motorola in 1974," says Mr. Keiichi Takeoka, president of Matsushita Corporation of America. "One of our reasons for the investment was to avoid such unnecessary conflicts."

These pressures were themselves caused by the extraordinary success of Japanese exports. Only Volkswagen in the 1950s has shown anything like the results which a whole range of Japanese companies have achieved over the last decade, as the country has swept forcefully on to become the U.S.

The figures speak for themselves. Japanese exports to the U.S. in 1983 amounted to \$41.2 billion, while overall trade between the two countries reached \$63 billion, double that of seven years ago, and three times what it was a decade ago.

The U.S. bought 25 per cent of Japan's total exports last year. Although Japan took about 10 per cent of U.S. exports, or the equivalent of America's combined exports to West Germany, France and Italy, it was still left with a \$30 billion deficit on its Japanese trade

— an underlying stimulus to protectionism which the Japanese cannot ignore.

This expansionary surge by the Japanese has created some very large businesses, even ignoring the big car groups, which inevitably dominate the scene because of the high unit value of their sales.

Matsushita, for example, had a turnover of \$2.8 billion in the U.S. last year (about 20 per cent of its total), which would place it around 140 in the Fortune list of top U.S. groups, while Sony generated sales of \$1.3 billion.

As a result of the enormous success of the consumer electronics groups, Japanese manufacturers now control perhaps 30 per cent of the U.S. television market, and as much as 60 per cent of video recorders.

A further factor in the investment jump was the shortage of raw materials and other resources in Japan. This is clearly underlined by Alaska's position as one of the leading states after California to have attracted Japanese companies — a choice dictated by Japan's heavy investment in the fisheries industry.

Similar reasoning has brought Japanese finance into the U.S. lumber industry and into metals. One of the biggest Japanese investments before the car industry and the banks started to arrive was made back in 1974 by Matsui and Nippon Steel in Alcanex, a joint \$50-million venture with Alcan in aluminium smelting and fabrication.

This initial \$350 million agreement has gone from strength to strength, creating a group with 91 plants and 13,000 employees and involving a further largescale investment last year with the \$250 million takeover of Howmet, another aluminium producer.

Finally, the Japanese have been drawn by the narrowing of the gap between domestic costs and the expense of operating in the U.S.

Some companies claim that the shopfloor wage package is now higher in Japan than in the U.S. and even if overall costs are lower (because of better Japanese productivity, or the larger salaries of American managers), this may be balanced by the expense of transport.

Three Japanese television companies (Matsushita, Sony and Sanyo) seem to have been heavily influenced in their U.S. investment decisions by the cost of shipping what are effectively large boxes.

Unlike many European companies, the Japanese who have come have also tended to stay. There have been relatively few disinvestments — only about six or seven according to Jetto, the Japanese overseas trade bureau — an astonishing performance compared with the record of other countries.

Jetto makes the point that before Japanese manufacturers set up in the U.S., they tested the market well — much better, probably, than many European invaders.

This preparation meant that they built up the financial marketing and technological strength to take on the U.S. competition.

The success of the Japanese also suggests that they had something more positive to give to the U.S. business scene than some of the Europeans. Too often, the Europeans have invested in North America to sell similar products to those already available, made in plants which operate on American-derived systems and backed by a parent company whose financial base was much

less powerful than the U.S. competitors.

The Japanese, on the other hand, have been able to score in several original ways. First, they have frequently been a technological jump ahead of the Americans. This is clearly true in consumer electronics and cars, where the Japanese have cut a swathe through the domestic industry with products which are often seen as technically superior.

Typically, the Japanese refine a product at home, test and adapt it in the U.S. build up a distribution network and only then consider U.S. investment.

In areas where there is no domestic Japanese market, the competitive pressures are palpably less. General Electric, for example, is taking the Japanese threat in the microwave oven market very seriously, while not worrying particularly about the dishwashing sector, where Japan has virtually no domestic market.

Similarly, in the steel industry Mr. Howard Love, chairman of National Steel, has justified the sale of 50 per cent of the U.S. group to Nippon Kokan (NKK), the Japanese group, on the grounds that National had to make a "leapfrog" technologically. "The well-proven technical excellence of NKK in the world steel industry will be an asset to the continued success of National Steel," he says.

Secondly, Japanese management systems have in many cases proved to be sufficiently adaptable to give their U.S. operations some pay-off in terms of productivity.

By no means all the Japanese have tried to introduce their own methods.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

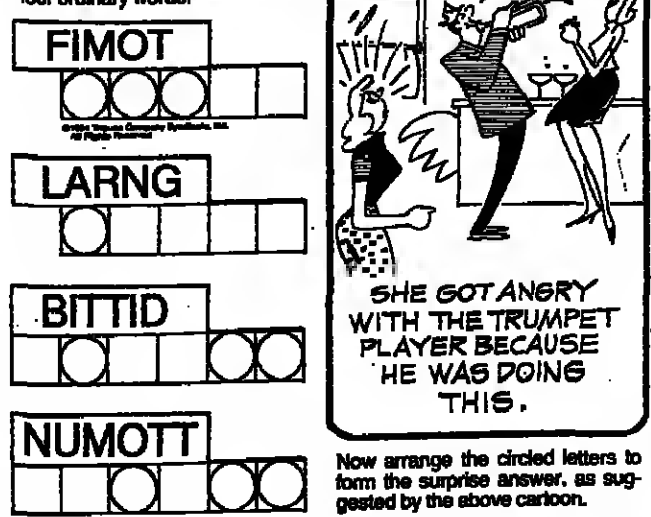


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JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "HER"

Yesterday's Jumble: EATEN MOSSY PREACH GUIDED

Answer: Why she agreed to marry the leather tycoon—HE "PER-SUED" HER

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed sharply lower on renewed speculation about a possible rise in U.S. interest rates. This followed the larger than expected rise in U.S. second quarter GNP figures, revised to 7.5 per cent from the recent "flash" forecast of 5.7 per cent. At 1530 Monday the F.T. S.E. 100 index had dropped 22.9 points to 986.9.

Tate and Lyle featured with a fall of 25p to 310, having touched 305 on news it bid for Brooke Bond, up 27p to 104 before shading to 97 at the close.

Government bonds extended early 1/4 point falls to about 1/2 point on the U.S. GNP news. North Americans ended mostly lower.

Oils were additionally depressed by falling spot oil prices and recent news Texaco plans to buy third less oil from BNOC, dealers said. Shell dropped 32p to 570, B.P. shed 13p to 438, Esso ended 15p off at 266 and Britoil lost 10p to 213.

Banks turned lower after a firm start, with Natwest down 12p to 597 while Lloyds eased 2p to 439 and Barclays returned to 444 from 452. Insurances were as much as 17p lower as in Sun Life at 647, partly in reaction to recent gains, dealers said.

Among the leaders BTR finished 19p lower at 410, GKN fell 7p to 156, Bowater lost 13p to 443 and ICI gave up 7p to 538. Gold shares moved selectively off the lows on cheap buying.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.3185/95 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3287/90 | Canadian dollars |
| | 2.8700/10 | West German marks |
| | 3.2400/10 | Dutch guilders |
| | 2.4350/60 | Swiss francs |
| | 58.04/09 | Belgian francs |
| | 8.8090/8140 | French francs |
| | 1762.00/1763.00 | Italian lire |
| | 246.35/45 | Japanese yen |
| | 8.3400/50 | Swedish crowns |
| | 8.2900/50 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 10.4850/4900 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 335.00/336.00 | U.S. dollars |

Horoscope and crosswords not received

French Gaullists formally call for general elections

PARIS (R) — France's right-wing opposition Gaullists have formally called for early parliamentary elections in a bid to recapture the initiative from the new Socialist government headed by Prime Minister Laurent Fabius.

The call came after two weeks during which President Francois Mitterrand withdrew an unpopular education bill, replaced his embattled Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, and split with his Communist allies.

According to opinion polls Mr. Fabius, a former industry minister, was a popular choice, reviving the fortunes of a government

recently worn down by bitter arguments with the opposition. But Gaullist Leader Jacques Chirac returned to the attack at a meeting of his RPR Party's 440-strong central committee Sunday night, saying the country was in the grip of an economic crisis, and demanding an early dissolution of parliament.

Mr. Chirac took issue with a

proposal by Mitterrand to seek constitutional changes allowing more frequent referendums on matters such as the education bill which affect basic liberties.

The suggestion was widely seen as a move by Mr. Mitterrand to counter opposition charges that he was undermining liberties through the schools bill, which sought to extend state authority over private schools, and another bill to curb press monopolies.

Mr. Chirac said he found the idea unclear. He went on to recall the Socialists' poll of less than 21 per cent in last month's European Parliament elections.

The time had come for a new contract between the people and their leader, he said.

"The constitution provides a clear and democratic solution: The dissolution by the president of the National Assembly and the organisation of elections," he said.

The Gaullists dominate the right wing of France's centre-right opposition, and Mr. Chirac's call follows a meeting on Friday with former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, a leading figure in the other main opposition party, the UDF.

Elections for the national assembly, where the Socialists have a majority, are not due until 1986.

Angolan rebels vow to reach Luanda in 6 months

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Angolan Rebel Leader Jonas Savimbi says the war against the country's Marxist government will be taken to the streets of the capital Luanda within the next six months, state-run Radio South Africa reported Monday.

It said that Mr. Savimbi, who leads the Union for the Total Ind-

pendence of Angola (UNITA), told reporters at his base in south-eastern Angola that government troops and their Cuban allies had avoided defeat only because of extensive air support.

He would be prepared to serve under Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos in a coalition government, provided no foreign

country was allowed to dictate to Angola.

Mr. Savimbi, supported by South Africa, also said armed struggle against South Africa was futile, the radio reported.

South Africa is withdrawing its forces from southern Angola in exchange for assurances from Luanda that Cubans and Nam-

ibian (South West African) guerrillas will be kept out of the vacated areas.

South Africa and the United States are insisting on a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as a condition for Namibian independence. The territory, between Angola and South Africa, is governed by Pretoria.

New Zealand to stay in Pacific defence pact

NEW YORK (R) — New Zealand's Prime Minister-elect David Lange reiterated his support for the ANZUS Pacific defence pact Sunday, saying in a published interview that there would be no unilateral withdrawal by his country.

"Even if we didn't have ANZUS, it's inconceivable that the Americans would stand by while we were invaded. So ANZUS is an honest declaration of our commitment to each other," Mr. Lange said in an interview published in the international edition of Newsweek magazine.

The Labour Party leader, interviewed in Wellington, rejected U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's warning that the 1951 treaty, signed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States,

could be destroyed if he carried out his promise to ban visits by nuclear warships.

The prime minister-elect said he did not accept the idea that the treaty could not be renegotiated.

"We support the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free South Pacific, in which nuclear armaments would not be employed or stored," he said. "Of course we would have to recognise the right of passage on the high seas. So this would be a different state of affairs than back home, where we can put in place specific goals."

Asked if there was a chance that New Zealand would withdraw from ANZUS, Mr. Lange replied: "Quite simply, under ANZUS nobody withdraws unilaterally. So there would be no unilateral withdrawal from New Zealand."

Report says U.S. Armed Forces suffer big defects

WASHINGTON (R) — A comprehensive congressional report says the U.S. Armed Forces are incapable of sustaining combat for any extended length of time.

The report, which the Defence Department said "appears accurate," found that the U.S. Navy could not handle combat operations on the sea and in the air for more than a week.

The capability of the air force in any conventional war against the Soviet Union was described as limited.

In order to win a conflict involving NATO forces in Europe,

the U.S. army would need 45 divisions, the report said.

The army has 16 divisions, each of about 7,500 men, and making up the difference could cost as much as \$142 billion, the document added.

The Defence Department, commenting on the findings in a supplement to the report, said the Reagan administration had inherited the deficiencies and was moving to correct them.

The report was released by the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

Opposition boycott Indian Parliament amid clashes

NEW DELHI (R) — Angry opposition politicians Monday stormed out of parliament at the start of its last major session before elections as guerrilla violence flared in north-eastern India.

Witnesses said opposition parliamentarians in both Upper and Lower Houses left to register protests over the government's handling of crises in Punjab and the neighbouring state of Jammu and Kashmir.

They said in the 544-seat Lok Sabha (Lower House), members leapt to their feet and shouted at each other when permission for an opposition motion on Jammu and Kashmir was refused.

The session was temporarily adjourned but most opposition

politicians later stormed out, the witnesses added.

The five-week monsoon session of parliament is the last major sitting before national elections are due to be held by January when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's term expires.

The opposition parliamentarians also issued statements condemning the sacking of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farouq Abdullah as "unconstitutional and undemocratic."

Mr. Abdullah's National Conference Party government was ousted three weeks ago when at least 12 of his supporters defected, leaving him in a minority in the state assembly.

China-Pakistan friendship directed against no country

PEKING (AP) — Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Chinese counterpart, Wu Xueqian, agreed that Pakistan-China friendship is "not directed against any country," the state-run press reported Monday in a likely reference to India.

Mr. Yaqub Khan and Mr. Wu also said any political settlement of the Afghanistan war must include the "unconditional and complete withdrawal" of Soviet troops.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister arrived Sunday for a five-day visit for talks with Mr. Wu that both sides are calling routine consultations. The remarks of the foreign ministers at a banquet Sunday night were reported by the official news agency Xinhua.

Mr. Yaqub Khan's visit coincides with Western press reports that China may be helping Pakistan build nuclear weapons. Both nations deny the accusations.

India, troubled by uneasy relations with both Pakistan and China, has long suspected Pakistan of developing nuclear weapons. India exploded its first atomic bomb in 1974 and China in 1964.

"Yaqub Khan said that friendship between Pakistan and China was 'not directed against any country,'" Xinhua reported.

"We are both engaged in endeavours to solve differences with our respective neighbours through conciliation and dialogue," Xinhua quoted him as saying.

"Each of us has indeed encouraged and supported the other in its efforts to normalise and improve relations with a third country, confident in the conviction that neither will do so at the expense of our cherished friendship," it quoted him as saying.

On the Afghan issue, Mr. Wu said China supports Pakistan's effort to consult with the Soviet-backed Afghan government through U.N.-sponsored talks, and sympathises with the Pakistani effort to accommodate more than 3 million Afghan war refugees.

Soviet truck leaves for home

BONN (R) — A Soviet truck rolled out of Moscow's embassy here early Monday and headed for home with nine tonnes of undeclared cargo that provoked a diplomatic wrangle in Switzerland and West Germany.

The white Mercedes-Benz truck, with the blue logo of the state transport company Sovtransauto under a thick film of dust, set out for East Germany escorted by a police car and two Soviet diplomatic vehicles.

Its two-man crew will have driven more than 6,000 kilometres in a frustrating round-trip from Moscow to Geneva.

Its departure will end a fruitless two-week journey climaxed Sunday when Soviet diplomats all-owed West German officials to inspect the cargo, suspected by intelligence sources to consist of espionage gear or smuggled Western technology.

The truck first came under suspicion in Switzerland, where authorities refused to let it unload on the grounds that nine tonnes was too big a "diplomatic bag" to go unchallenged.

When it was sent back to Moscow unopened, Bonn, on the same grounds, halted it at the East-West German border and demanded an inspection.

Odyssey of Soviet truck points to 'diplomatic bag' limits

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuters

BONN — The bizarre odyssey of a Soviet truck which drove Switzerland and West Germany to confrontation with Moscow ended in Bonn on Sunday and apparently set one limit on what can pass for a "diplomatic bag".

The Soviet Union bowed to Bonn's insistence that the nine-tonne cargo of its sealed container truck could not cross frontiers unopened by eluding diplomatic immunity.

"We will not be led around by the nose," Chief West German Government Spokesman Peter Boenisch said last week. "If we let them get away with describing an entire container as a diplomatic bag, they'll be back next time with a Zeppelin."

Bonn got its look into the mysterious container it had stopped at the East German border, but it respected the rules of the 1961 Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations and did not open any of the 207 Russian-lettered packages inside.

A West German statement said the Russians had declared the cargo as transmitting receiving gear, electrical apparatus and other supplies for the Soviet Uni-



Two youngsters stand alongside makeshift tents — each of which house up to 10 people — in the village of Ntoma, in the Chadian region of Karen recently, where more than 100,000 people, fleeing from the

drought in the north, have settled during the past year. There is a scarcity of water for people and animals and almost no food at all (AP wirephoto)

Africa warned of possible famine

HARARE (R) — The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned African countries Monday that they are heading for disaster because of their high birth rates and their failure to grow enough food.

Addressing the FAO's biennial regional conference for Africa, Director-General Edouard Saouma said Africa was failing to cope with the problem of feeding its people.

He said population growth was the main factor responsible for the increased demand for food. "I fear that many African nations, if they do not take action to encourage a drop in fertility rates,

are speeding headlong to disaster," he said.

The conference, dubbed the "African Food Summit", is attended by agriculture ministers from some 30 African countries and food experts from more than 20 other countries.

Mr. Saouma devoted a large part of his address to population growth and said a unique feature of the African continent was the absence, so far, of any significant fall in birth rate.

"The result is the highest population increase in the world — indeed, a rate that seems to be still accelerating," he said.

Mr. Saouma said the population

growth of four per cent a year experienced by some African countries was explosive.

"How can a nation's farmers be expected to increase their output at a sustained rhythm of four per cent per annum to feed the new mouths? In the difficult conditions of African farming, even a growth rate of three per cent ... is likely to surpass the possibilities of most programmes for agricultural development," he said.

The FAO chief said 45 per cent of its agency's activities were directed towards Africa — "more than triple the effort that would be justified in terms of population alone."

Tamils mourn victims of ethnic violence

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's main Tamil party Monday launched a week's mourning for victims of last year's ethnic violence as the government prepared fresh proposals to help ease tension between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

A spokesman for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) told Reuters it had called on Tamils "to avoid all celebrations and pomp and pageantry" this week as a mark of respect for nearly 400 people died in riots in July last year.

A conference of political parties, ethnic groups, and religious organisations aimed at finding a political solution to the island's ethnic problems, was due to meet

Monday night after a recess of more than seven weeks.

Government sources said President Jinnus Jayewardene was expected to make fresh proposals, including the creation of a second legislative chamber consisting of representatives from the island's 25 administrative districts with the aim of sharing power at the centre.

The TULF has also planned a fast by its leaders at a temple in Jaffna Tuesday to be followed by a *haral* (non-violent demonstration) in Tamil areas on Wednesday and Thursday.

Guerrillas, fighting for a separate state, have also called for *harals* on Wednesday and Thursday.

The demonstrations are planned

to mark the anniversary of ethnic violence which erupted on July 25 last year after guerrillas killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers in an ambush in Jaffna.

Tamils, who make up 2.5 million of the island's 15 million population, are fighting for autonomy in the northern and eastern provinces where most of them live.

Police have intensified security in the two provinces and other sensitive areas, including Colombo, to counter any violence this week.

The island's Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim leaders also launched an "amity week" Sunday and appealed for peace and harmony through religious unity.

Filipino police break up protest crowds

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Police wearing gas masks and riding jeeps as they threw tear gas dispersed 10,000 people who were gathered in a downtown Manila square two hours before President Ferdinand Marcos was to address the opening session of the National Assembly.

Hundreds of police on foot, also wearing masks and swinging clubs, chased the protesters. As they ran, the protesters stumbled over each other while acid fumes filled the air around Manila's Plaza Bonifacio.

At least one protester was seen bleeding from the head and a bystander collapsed. A Manila hospital reported trading five people for minor fractures, bruises and gas inhalation.

Minutes after the dispersal of the crowds close to 5,000 demonstrators regrouped and marched toward a university a few kilometres away, chanting "Marcos — Hitler, dictator puppet" as thousands of bystanders cheered them on.

Police were apparently not aware of the march and at one point the marchers overturned a jeep with a government plate caught in a traffic jam and set it on fire. "Burn it, burn it, so we can get even," some of the marchers chanted as the jeep's driver ran away.

The assembly is the first "regular" legislative body in the Philippines since Mr. Marcos abolished a U.S.-style Congress in 1972. A previous assembly was dubbed "temporary" and had fewer than a dozen opposition members.

In the May 14 elections, Mr. Marcos' opponents won 71 of the assembly's 183 elected seats. Some contests were still in dispute.

The confrontation with the police began shortly after the assembly began its session. As assemblymen voted 111-66

to install longtime Marcos ally Nicanor Ynguez as speaker, riot police bearing shields and truncheons formed a wall across the main road leading to the assembly on the outskirts of suburban Quezon City.

The police faced 300 marchers led by "Butz" Aquino, brother of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino; and after a peaceful hour-long confrontation, the marchers withdrew to join a larger demonstration in downtown Manila.

Several groups were protesting Marcos' lawmaking powers, U.S. involvement in the Philippines, low wages, rising prices and alleged cheating in the National Assembly election.

The protesters were scheduled to hold a "parliament of the people" simultaneously as Marcos gave his State of the Nation Address to members of the assembly who were meeting for the first time since the May 14 elections.

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Several questions remain unanswered. The West Germans allowed the truck to enter their territory from East Germany on July 11 without inspection, allowed it to leave 30 hours later at Basel on the Swiss frontier, and then let it back in again on July 18 again without inspection.

An assertion by Mr. Boenisch that the truck loitered near the Duesenberg Military Airfield outside Zurich was denied by the Swiss government, which protested that the truck never left its surveillance while in the country.

For one and a half days of its 12 days in the West, the white Mercedes container vehicle moved without West German customs seals, presumably unwatched, through West Germany.

For the rest of the time, its doors were sealed by either the Swiss or the Germans and there has been no suggestion from any source that the seals were tampered with.

NEWS ANALYSIS

These appeared to disregard the fact that the truck was originally carrying its freight from the Soviet Union to Geneva, not from West to East.

Other reports played up the possibility that the truck was an electronic "Trojan Horse" full of espionage gear to expand the Geneva mission's eavesdropping capabilities.

Or that it was a wheeled version of the Soviet "fishing trawlers" that were actually spy ships in disguise.

Some media reports even noted that nine tonnes, the weight of the truck's cargo, was exactly that of the engine of West Germany's highly-advanced Leopard 2 battle tank.

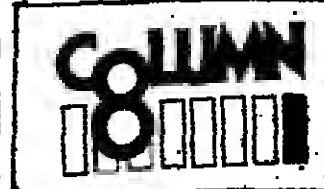
Once the object of this intense speculation was removed, the West German media turned to the government and the motives for its tough stance.

Mr. Boenisch, who had spoken of a "mosaic of suspicion" aroused by the truck's meandering journey and what he called its "odd behaviour", told a radio interviewer on Sunday that Bonn was only seeking to assert a point of international principle.

These intelligence agency suspicions and speculations never were the main priority for us. Our main priority was that we wanted clarification, within the Vienna Convention rules, of this rather large piece of diplomatic baggage," he said.

Asked about the impact on West German-Soviet relations, he said: "We stressed from the outset ... that we were not interested in a diplomatic incident or a diplomatic clash," but in upholding internationally-agreed norms.

He added that countries "have the right to send radio transceiving equipment and coding machines



Fire in old peoples home injures 38

LOS ANGELES (R) — Fire roared through an 11-storey old peoples home Sunday night, injuring 38 people and forcing the evacuation of 200 more, fire officials said. Officials said the fire apparently started in an adjoining apartment building under construction. The flames, which soared as high as 60 metres, leaped across to the fifth floor of the home and spread to higher floors.

6 armed men rob hotel safe

ROME (R) — Six hooded men armed with pistols overpowered the staff of a large Rome hotel during the night and robbed 46 security safes, police said. After tying up the five night staff of the Hilton Cavalieri, on Monte Mario overlooking the city, the raiders forced open the safes and stuffed the contents into sacks. Three guests who returned to the hotel during the raid at 0200 GMT were also bound and gagged. Police said the value of the goods was not yet known.

Soviet actress dies

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Actress Faina Grigorevna Ranavskaya, whose stage and screen career began before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, has died at the age of 86, the Official News Agency TASS said Monday. The report of her death did not say when or where she died. Miss Ranavskaya first appeared on the stage of the Malakhovsky suburban theatre near Moscow in 1915. One of the foremost Soviet actresses from the 1930s through the 1960s, she performed in dozens of plays and movies. Miss Ranavskaya was born in Taganrog, Russia, according to reference books.

Adam Malik has liver cancer

JAKARTA (R) — Former Indonesian Vice-President Adam Malik, who celebrated his 67th birthday Sunday, is suffering from liver cancer, his personal assistant said Monday. Imam Waluyo said in a telephone interview that Mr. Malik became ill in April and was admitted to a hospital in Jakarta. He went to London in early May, where doctors diagnosed cancer of the liver. Looking slightly thinner than usual, Mr. Malik appeared cheerful and smiling at his house Sunday when he welcomed hundreds of birthday party guests. But he then told them he had cancer, Mr. Waluyo said.

Elephants need privacy, too

OAKLAND, California (AP) — It's difficult to get in the mood with a crowd looking on, so officials at the Oakland Zoo are going to build their elephants a love nest. Zoo officials have announced they have hired an architectural firm to build a new \$1-million elephant environment that is conducive to mating. "Our immediate goal is to design a suitable and comfortable enclosure for breeding elephants," said General Manager William Penn Mott Jr. The new elephant home, which officials hope to complete in two years, will include a pond and a giant sandbox for a kind of elephant sandbath that the pachyderms enjoy. It will also give the animals some privacy.

Thatcher does not eat breakfast

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Saturday she ate vitamin pills for breakfast and had little time for relaxation — "work to me is a pleasure," she told a television interviewer. Mrs. Thatcher, speaking on an independent television chat show, was asked what she would do with her time when she was no longer prime minister. "I hope to have a lot of time to think about that yet," she replied. But when retirement did come, she said: "I shall have to be very active because that's the way I've lived." "I'm doing the one job I've lived in the world which I really want to do. Which I love. And work to me is a pleasure," she told interviewer Michael Aspel. She said she couldn't do without her family and turned to them for advice.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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UPPERCUT FOR THE KNOCKOUT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ A 9 8 7 2
♣ 8 7 6

WEST
♠ J 9 2
♥ K J 5
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A 10 3

EAST
♠ Q 4
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ 4 3
♣ Q J 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 8 7 6 5
♥ 6 2
♦ 6 5
♣ K 4

The bidding:
South West North East
4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣.

Sometimes, a defender is able to direct his partner toward the winning defense. At other times, however, a defender has to come up with the right play without help from anyone.

We are not sure that we would have opened the South hand with four spades, for two reasons. First, the 7-2-2 distribution is most unattractive; and second, South has a shade too much defensive strength for a preempt. Our vote goes to an opening bid of one spade, followed by a series of spade rebids.

Had West come up with an opening heart lead or a heart

shift at trick two, which would have removed one of dummy's entries, this hand would never have attracted any attention. But be selected the more promising lead of the king of diamonds, and then, rather unimaginatively, continued the suit after declarer allowed West to win the first trick.

Declarer took the ace of diamonds and led a third round of the suit from the dummy. East sluffed a club, and declarer ruffed. He drew two rounds of trumps, finessed the heart queen and ruffed another diamond to set up a long card in the suit. He returned to the board with the ace of hearts and sluffed a club on the 13th diamond. He lost only a trump, a diamond and a club.

East missed his opportunity to defeat the hand. When declarer led a third diamond from the table, East should have ruffed with the lady.

There is no combination of cards where that would have cost a trick. And as the cards lie, the uppercut gains a trick. If declarer does not overruff, he must still give up a trump trick and a club to West for down one. If he does overruff, West must come to two trump tricks by force, plus the ace of clubs, for down one.